

PC Update

October 1998

Recommended price \$3.95

GoldMine 4.0 - [(Multiple Users)]'s Calendar - Sep 10, 1998

File Edit View Query Schedule Complete E-mail Tools Window Help

Day Week Month Year Planner Outline Peg Board

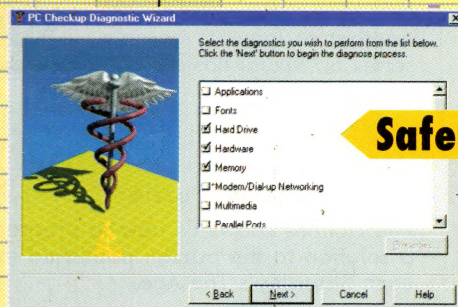
August 1998 - September 1998 User: (Multiple Users)

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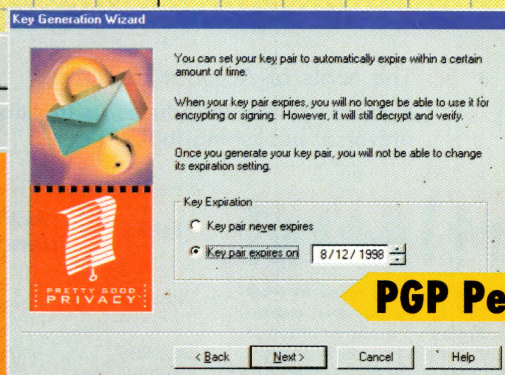
GoldMine 4.0



RamGate Gold Version 7



Safe & Sound



PGP Personal Edition

How does the Melb PC Internet service work?

MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP

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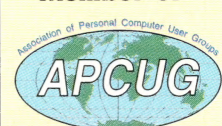
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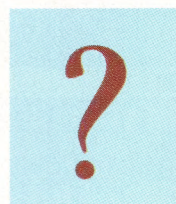
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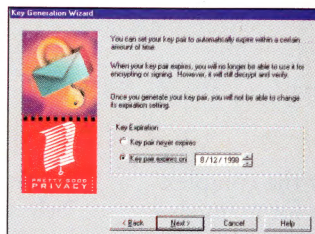
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December/ January	26 Oct	28 Oct	30 Oct	20 Nov
1999				
February	4 Jan	6 Jan	8 Jan	29 Jan
March	1 Feb	3 Feb	5 Feb	26 Feb

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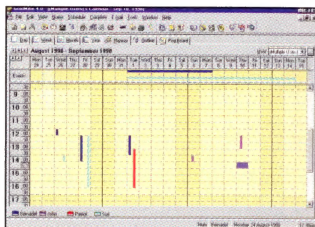
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Melb PC directory

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Online Services

Melb PC BBS
(16 lines, up to 28.8 kbps)
9699 6611

Internet Service
80 lines, up to 120 mins total, per day, max 33.6 kbps **9686 4506**
120 lines, up to 120 mins total, per day, max 56 kbps (K56flex) **9934 9400**

Intranet Service
26 lines, controlled, unlimited access, max 33.6 kbps **9690 5644**

Home Page
http://www.melbpc.org.au

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Editing. All articles are edited for style, spelling, grammar and length. Articles that may not be edited or that do not meet our standards, will be rejected.

Graphics. Supply graphics or screen shots, wherever possible, as colour, or black and white images, saved in one of the formats: PCX, BMP, TIF, WMF or EPS.

Rejections. Contact the editor if your submission is not published within four issues. Articles with long file names, self-extracting files or virus infections are rejected without notification. Other rejections are advised by phone or in writing.



Lately I've heard a lot of people using the terms "the Web" and "the Internet" interchangeably. The Web is just one part of the global computer communications network that makes up the Internet. In fact, the Web is a new addition to the Internet and the Internet isn't that old itself. If you don't believe me, have a look at "A (much too) brief look at the evolution of the Internet".

Future shock, take one

One of the curses of modern life is that everything is always changing more rapidly than it did yesterday, and nowhere is that more true than in the world of computers and computing. I had cause to reflect on this as I worked on this issue of *PC Update*. George Skarbek's article about Melb PC's Internet service reminded me of our original trial Internet service in 1994. It always gives me a feeling of pride to remember that our service predates most other home-grown commercial providers, and that we were virtually the only affordable service available. With our shell accounts, Lynx was the browser of necessity. Back then, I might have used the Web once or twice a month. Newsgroups, e-mail, gopher, FTP, that's what interested me.

Just as I was thinking about how much my own computing environment had changed since 1994, the pace of change in computing was highlighted by a press release I received about research on quantum computers. Even amongst the many other press releases I received that day, that one caught my eye.

I first heard about quantum computers from my brother. He's a computer science and pure maths guru and his enthusiasm for the subject was infectious. I understood the theory and foundation of this revolutionary concept, although my mathematics skills were far too rusty to appreciate any of the fine detail.

Many highly experienced computer users don't really grasp the concept of classical computers, and their reliance on binary code. Even those that do, don't necessarily make the next leap in

understanding, to how the complex programs that we take for granted—from desktop publishing to database, spreadsheet and word processing applications—are created, or how they function.

How, I wondered, would others come to grips with a quantum computer? After all, quantum theory has been the undoing of many physics, chemistry and mathematics students. But, I reasoned, it would be a long time before that became a practical worry. (Not nearly as long as I had thought, it seems.)

I sent the press release to my brother, knowing it would interest him. It did, and it also evoked a telling memory for him:

It's kinda funny. I remember back in about 1989-90 or so I used the Los Alamos preprint archive and they had this "new" interface to it. It used this goofy thing called the World Wide Web, whatever the hell that is. That was the first time I ever used a Web browser (or a gopher browser for that matter).

His personal reflection brought me full circle, to the Web, and its relative newness. Yet in a very short time, the Web has become a vital tool, for most of us (except perhaps my brother). The Web (with a little help from Bill Gates and his team in Redmond) has even changed the way we visualise computing, or at least the desktop computing environment.

Future shock, take two

Skip this section if you've already decided or determined that Y2K isn't going to be a problem for you. If you haven't, but you need a little adrenalin boost every time you fire up your machine, you might want to search the Web for a Y2K Countdown screen saver. If, on the other hand, you want to take some action to prevent catastrophe in your corner of cyberspace, check out the Y2K FAQ. It covers the scope and cause of the problem, known software and hardware problems, social and historical issues, information about how to fix the problem, and a very comprehensive listing of Y2K tools. You can find the current version of the Year 2000 FAQ at the Year 2000 Information

Center <http://www.year2000.com>. (Select the "Year 2000 Archive" link from the home page. The FAQ is the last item listed on the Archive page.) Or you can get it using anonymous FTP to <ftp://www.year2000.com>. It is in the /pub/year2000 directory. The file name is y2kfaq.txt. (Note: some FTP sites do not support anonymous FTP via a Web browser interface. You may have to use an actual FTP client such as WS_FTP.)

Deja vu, again

Virus hoax season is back. Please remember that spreading a virus hoax is only marginally less bad than spreading an actual virus. Don't forward warnings about viruses or other Internet threats without checking the facts at one of the many hoax debunking sites. Here are two good sources for reliable information about viruses and hoaxes:

Internet Virus Hoaxes CIAC Internet Hoaxes Page <http://ciac.llnl.gov/ciac/CIACHoaxes.html>

Symantic Virus Hoaxes <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>

Exciting times

Robin Taylor took up the challenge and volunteered for the Internet to the Outback scheme. Robin's currently in the Northern Territory, at Auvergne Station, with the Katherine School of the Air. She's planning on having some of the students write to me as part of their work to become familiar with e-mail. I'll keep my eye out for interesting letters and get permission to reprint them in a future issue of *PC Update*. I also have my fingers crossed that Robin will write about her experiences for *PC Update*.

Important reminder

This is the short end of the year, at least as far as *PC Update* is concerned. Our next deadline (for the November issue) is 5 October. Just 21 days later, on 26 October, the deadline for the December/January issue rolls around.

Please keep these deadlines in mind when planning your contributions to *PC Update*. □

IT Career Opportunities

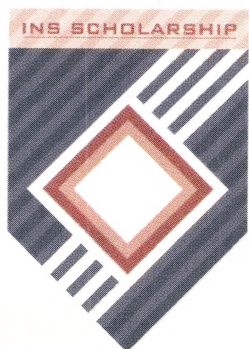
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SOFTWARE REVIEW

PGP Personal Edition

Bernadette
Houghton



quick to

install

and easy

to use



Figure 1. PGPPE's floating toolbox

Info Box

PGP Personal Edition

Minimum system

- Win 95 / NT 4.0
- 8 MB RAM
- 15 MB free hard disk space.

Availability / cost

Available from your local software reseller, otherwise contact Network Associates
Ph: (02) 9437 5866
RRP \$79

With data security over the Internet being such a hot topic these days, it seemed quite timely when I received PGP Personal Edition (PGPPE) in the mail. PGP—short for Pretty Good Privacy—is a widely accepted encryption technology. According to the enclosed fact sheet, the United States National Security Agency claims it would take all of the personal computing power in the world 12 million times the age of the universe to crack PGP encryption. Reassuring, is it not?

What is PGP?

Briefly, PGP revolves around the use of key pairs. You have a key pair, consisting of a public key available to anyone, and a private key, known only to you. Anyone who wants to send you an encoded message uses your public key to encrypt the data, which you decrypt with your private key. You can also use your private key to digitally sign messages,

and recipients use their copy of your public key to verify the authenticity and integrity of your message.

If you wish, you can register your public key on PGP key servers on the Internet, and anyone who wants to send you secure mail can search for and retrieve your public key from these servers. If you don't register your public key, only those in the know will be able to send you secure encrypted messages. And of course, both sending and receiving parties must have some form of PGP software installed.

How does PGPPE work?

A Key Generation wizard walks you through the process of creating a key pair, which can be as large as 4096 bits or as small as 512 bits. Obviously, the larger the key, the more secure the resulting encryption. With each key pair, you choose a passphrase; do keep this secure, as this is the magic password which decrypts your encoded data, and there is no fallback if you forget it.



Figure 2. Key Generation Wizard

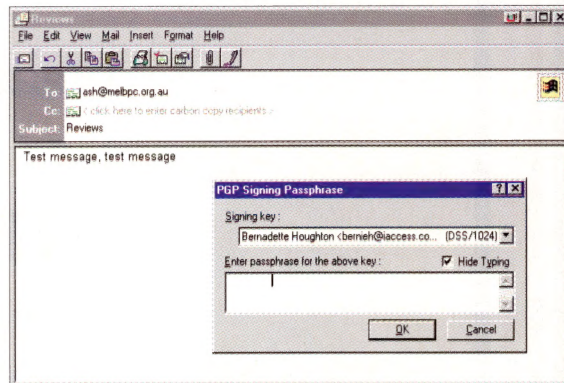


Figure 3. Signing a message. Encryption is the next step

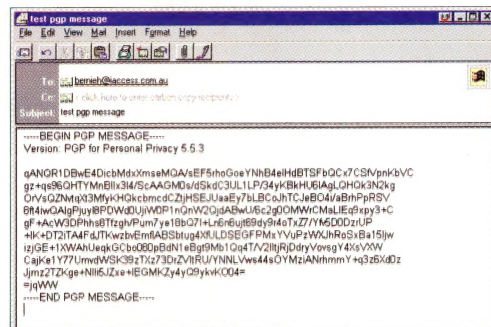


Figure 4. An encrypted PGP message

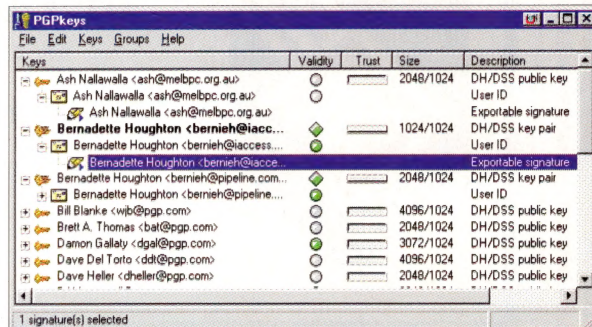


Figure 5. A local keyring

To send an encrypted message, you address and write your message as usual, then invoke the PGPPE tools. PGPPE ships with plug-ins for Eudora, Microsoft Exchange and Microsoft Outlook, but works with any e-mail software. If you're using one of the plug-ins, PGPPE adds some options to the application's toolbar.

If you're using another e-mail application, you encrypt and decrypt via the clipboard. You can also encrypt and sign files before attaching them to your e-mail.

Local keyrings on your computer store the public keys of the people you communicate with, and from time to time you can synchronise your local keyring with the public key server to ensure your keyring is up to date. You can register your public key on the PGP key servers from within PGPPE, and use PGPPE's search tool to look for others' public keys.

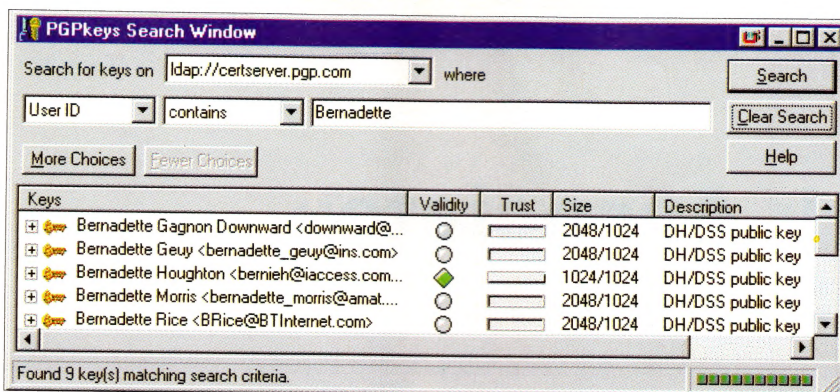


Figure 6. Searching the public key database

To help facilitate the spread of PGP technology, PGPPE includes two complete licences in the one box. The second licence—complete with its own CD, registration card and documentation—you can give to anyone you like.

PGPPE doesn't just secure your e-mail; you can use it to secure data stored on your computer or file server. It also includes a Wipe utility which overwrites files before deleting them so you can't retrieve them with disk recovery software. Be aware, though, that most Wipe utilities, including PGPPE's, simply overwrite the actual

file, ignoring any back-up copies or orphaned data fragments that may remain on your hard disk.

Assessment

If you need high level confidentiality for your data, whether stored on your computer or transmitted over the Internet, PGP technology is worth thinking about.

Don't become complacent, though, and assume that PGP encryption eliminates all potential data security risks. While the code may be virtually uncrackable, the biggest threats to data security lie elsewhere. Don't tell anyone your passphrase, don't store it in your desk drawer, consider your computer's physical security, and have a think about those hidden unencoded fragments on your hard disk.

As for PGPPE, I found it quick to install and easy to use. If you feel PGP is the way to go, PGP Personal Edition is a good choice. □

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- Nov 90 – Alpha 386SX (Winner)
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- Oct 94 – Alpha Pentium 66 (Editors Choice)
- Dec 95 – Alpha Pentium 75 (Bang for Buck)
- Dec 96 – Alpha P166+ (Editors Choice)
- Dec 96 – Alpha Pentium Pro 200 (Highly Commended)

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1.44MB Panasonic FDD
5.1GB Quantum EL HDD
S3 Virge 2MB PCI 3D graphics
Sound Blaster 16 PnP
32 x CDROM, 120W Speakers
15" Philips Digital Monitor
104 Keys Win 95 Keyboard
2 Button Mouse & Pad
Heavy Duty ATX Case
Windows 98
2 Year Parts & 5 Year Labour

\$1,890

Alpha Pentium II 333

Intel Pentium II 333 MHz CPU
64MB PCI100 SDRAM
1.44MB Panasonic FDD
5.1GB Quantum EL HDD
i740 chip 8MB AGP graphics
Sound Blaster 16 PnP
32 x CDROM, 120W Speakers
17" Philips Digital Monitor
104 Honeywell Keyboard
Microsoft Mouse & Pad
Heavy Duty ATX Case
Windows 98
2 Year Parts & 5 Year Labour

\$2,590

Network Associates Safe & Sound

Bernadette
Houghton



Info Box

Safe & Sound

Minimum system

- Win 95
- 16 MB RAM
- SVGA display adapter
- CD-ROM
- 25 MB free hard disk space.

Availability / cost

Available from your local software reseller, otherwise contact Network Associates
Ph (02) 9437 5866

RRP \$59.95

Diagnostic and repair tools are these days almost as rife as politician's promises. Now, Network Associates has just made the competition a little more intense with its release of Safe & Sound (S&S). S&S is a utilities suite covering three principal roles—preventing system problems, fixing them when they occur, and protecting your data from harm.

Most of the S&S utilities aren't new, having been previously released as part of other packages from the McAfee/Helix Software (now Network Associates) stable. Nuts & Bolts, for instance, and Hurricane 98 both include several utilities in common with S&S. S&S doesn't supersede these programs; it just offers a different mix of utilities.

PC Checkup

PC Checkup is S&S's diagnostic and repair utility. It checks out hardware, trawls through software and files, assesses your PC's configuration, and—if you're lucky—fixes the problems it finds. Checkup is very customisable; you decide which aspects of your system to test, what tests to run, and to what level of detail. At the end of each diagnostic run, Checkup reports its findings and offers to fix the problems automatically, or walk you through the steps of doing so yourself. If you wish, you

can elect to ignore the problem for now. Unfortunately, Checkup offers no manual override to prevent "problems" that aren't really problems from being re-detected in the future. It repeatedly tags application files normally stored on CD-ROM, for instance, as "missing files" after each and every checkup.

Retake

Retake automatically backs up your data into a protected volume file on your hard disk at time intervals which you nominate. If you wish, it will even back up in synchronisation with your changes to the original files. Retake works transparently; configured to update my backup during idle times, I noticed no performance degradation on my PC.

McAfee Image

Unlike Retake, which only backs up files, Image takes a copy of your computer's boot record, partition tables and FAT (File Allocation Table), and enables you to restore these if your hard disk fails. With Retake backing up your data regularly, and Image updating each time you start Windows, you'll have a much stronger chance of completely restoring your PC to its pre-crash state.

Bomb Shelter

Bomb Shelter enables you to exit gracefully from application and system crashes, and even recover

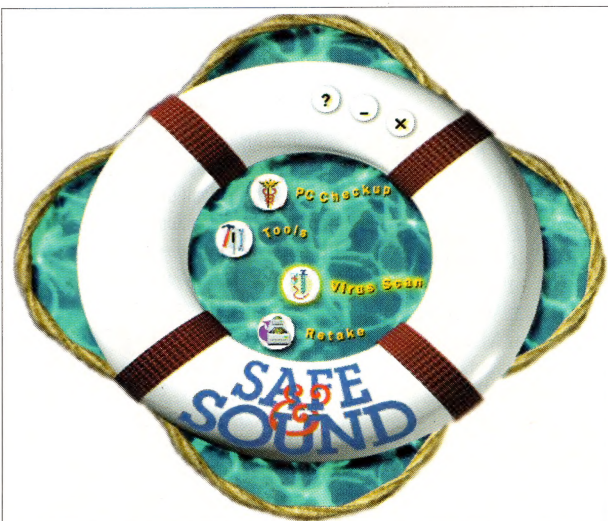


Figure 1. Safe & Sound's main menu

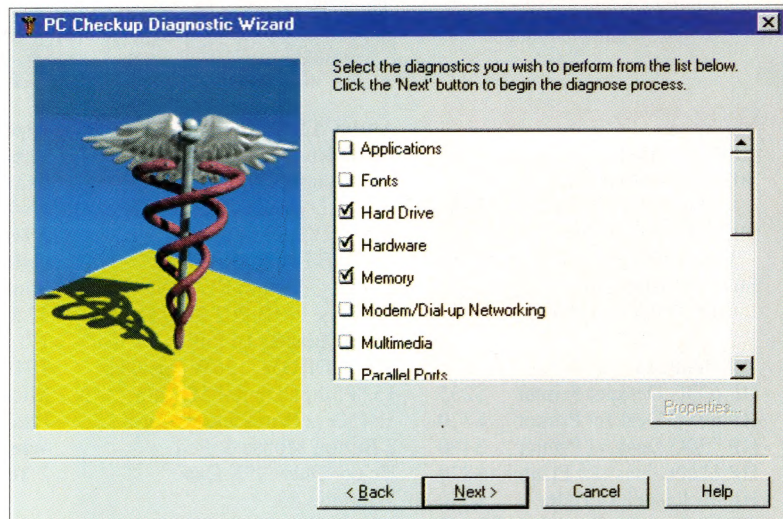


Figure 2. PC Checkup's Diagnostic Wizard

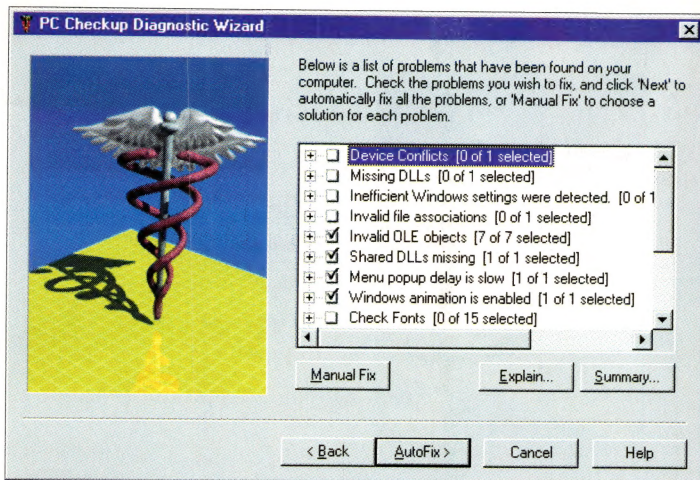


Figure 3. PC Checkup's reporting screen

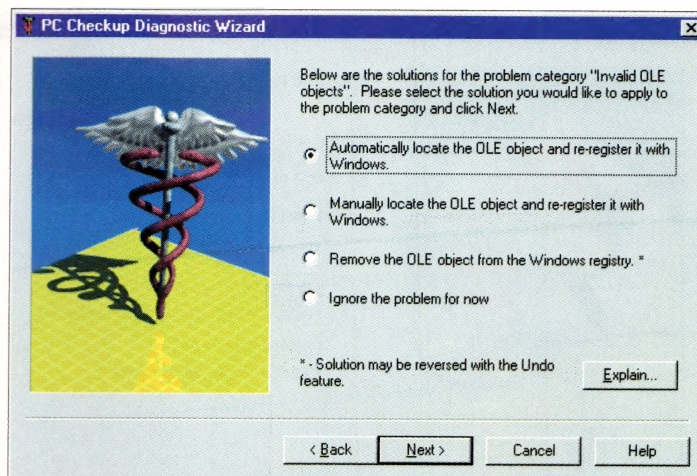


Figure 4. PC Checkup's solutions screen

without loss of data. It does this by monitoring critical regions of RAM and intervening whenever an application tries to over-write these regions. Then, Bomb Shelter displays a modified Close Program dialogue box that also offers you the option of recovering a faulty application. If you choose to recover, you can re-enter the application and save your data. I tested Bomb Shelter on its own, but according to the documentation, it can coexist with other protection programs. The documentation claims it catches only errors that these programs miss, because it operates at a lower level than other programs.

Year 2000 compliance checker

The Year 2000 Checker tests your PC's RTC (Real Time Clock), BIOS, DOS and Windows clocks to determine whether they handle Year 2000 dates correctly. If Checker finds a problem, it installs a fixer program, adding it to your AUTOEXEC.BAT file so it runs every time you boot your PC. Checker doesn't offer total Year 2000 protection—you'll still need to ensure that your applications themselves are Year 2000 compliant.

Virus Scanner

Virus Scanner is a much cut-down version of McAfee's VirusScan. Invoked only on demand, it runs off the same virus database as VirusScan. However, Virus Scanner just detects viruses; it doesn't clean them out. S&S doesn't have anything in its armoury which cleans up virus attacks, although some of the S&S utilities are capable of cleaning up the effects of some viruses.

WinGauge Lite

WinGauge Lite is a mini version of the WinGauge shipped with Hurricane 98 (reviewed in *PC Update*, July 1998).

Lite monitors system resources, physical memory, disk space and fragmentation; things PC Checkup doesn't test. If you have a hard drive that uses SMART (Self-Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Technology), Lite also monitors the health of the drive. Unlike the full version of WinGauge, Lite doesn't have visible gauges; it tucks an icon away in your System Tray, and emerges only to warn you when a threshold is triggered.

Other utilities

Other utilities included with S&S are:

- Discover, which displays detailed system information in graphical format
- Rescue Disk, which creates a bootable startup disk
- Instant Update, which updates S&S to the latest version (including the Virus Scanner)
- Personal Trainer for Windows 95, a third-party Windows 95 tutorial.

Assessment

PC Checkup found an intimidatingly long list of problems on my machine, mostly associated with software errors—invalid DLLs, invalid file associations, orphaned registry entries and so on. Of the 86 problems it found, it fixed three automatically, but needed guidance for the rest (e.g. did I want to delete the problem files or repair them?). S&S claims on its packaging that it "fixes more problems than First Aid 98". While I didn't test this claim as such,

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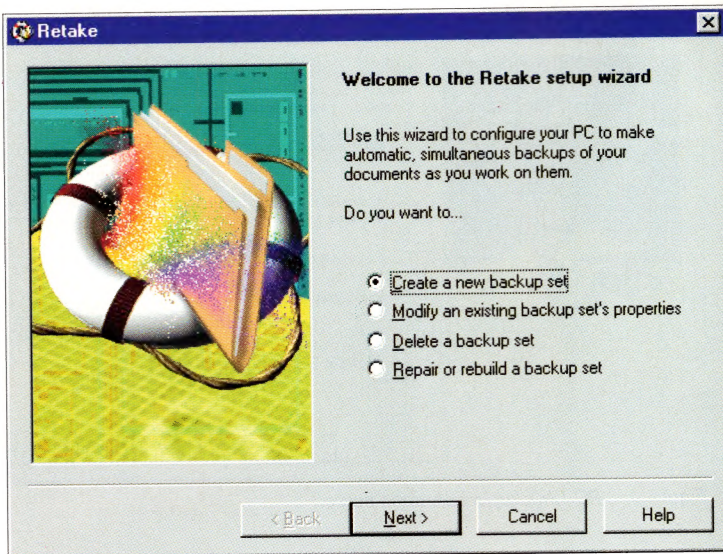


Figure 5. Retake Wizard

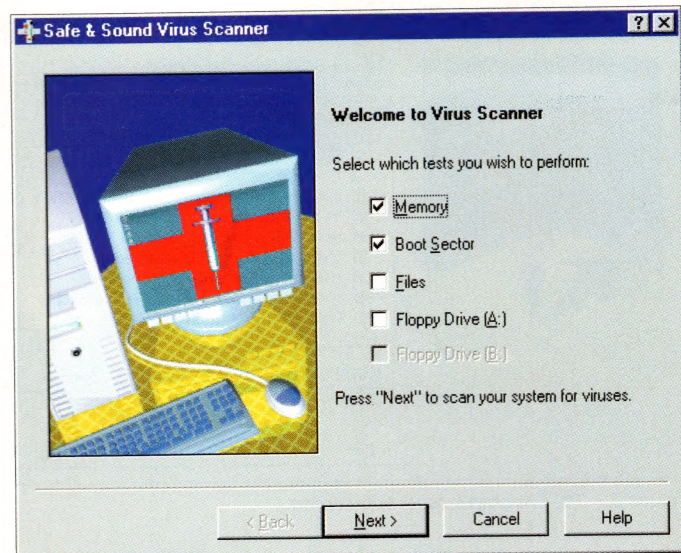


Figure 6. Virus Scanner

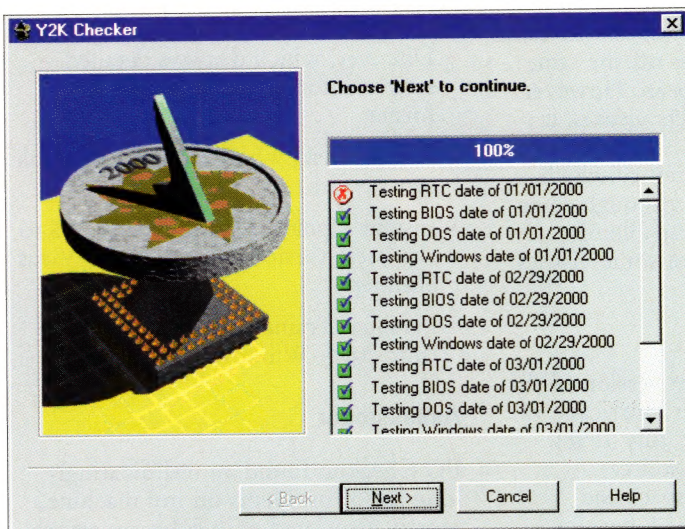


Figure 7. Year 2000 Checker

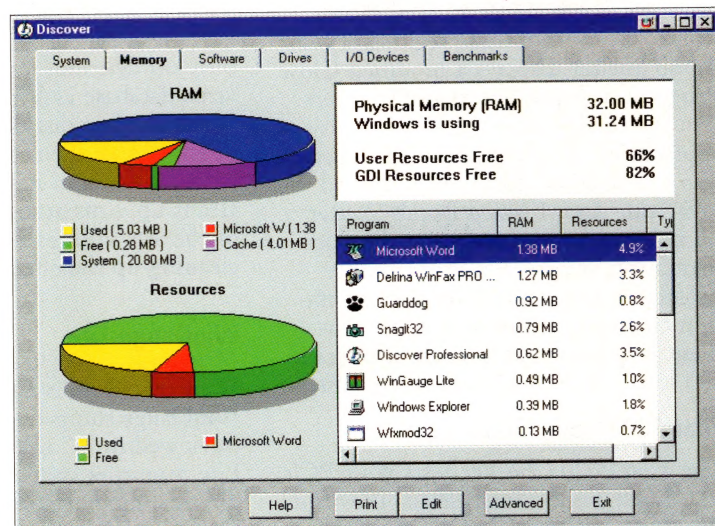


Figure 8. Discover

my overall impression is that Checkup offers more automated or semi-automated fixes for specific problems than does First Aid. As part of my tests, I also changed certain system settings on my machine that I knew from past experience First Aid could detect. Unfortunately, Checkup failed to detect these inferior settings, leading me to conclude that First Aid may have an edge as far as diagnostics go. Checkup also lacks First Aid's ability to ignore specified errors on successive diagnostic runs.

Bomb Shelter saved me from disaster a few times, but didn't always work; I've yet to encounter a 100 per cent fail-proof crash protection utility. As for WinGauge, it kept a close eye on my computer, but I'm still trying to work out how it came up with a figure of 46 per cent fragmentation for one of my hard drives, while Microsoft Disk

Defragger insisted fragmentation was 6 per cent. Since my hard drive is new, I tend to believe Microsoft.

S&S's documentation is very obscure in some areas, such as what to do if a virus attacks your computer. On the other hand, none of its utilities need much configuring, and when they do, wizards step you through the process. S&S's most valuable weapons are Retake, Image, Year 2000 Checker and Discover. WinGauge Lite is nice, but lacks the grunt of its full-featured sibling. PC Checkup has some weaknesses, but remains a reasonably good—not great—diagnostic utility. If you're a beginner or intermediate computer user, if S&S's mix of tools fits your particular needs, and if you're after value for money, S&S may suit you. Just be aware of its limitations and do bolster it with a better virus protection package. □

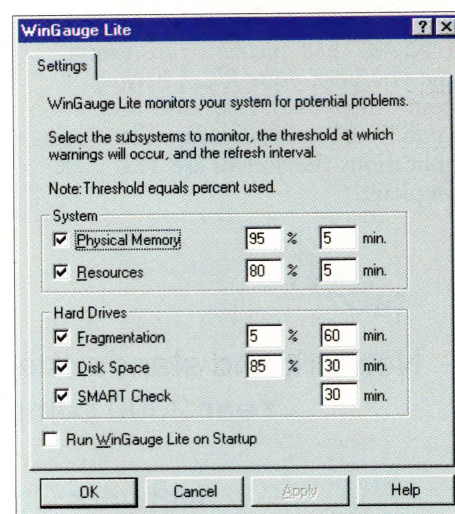
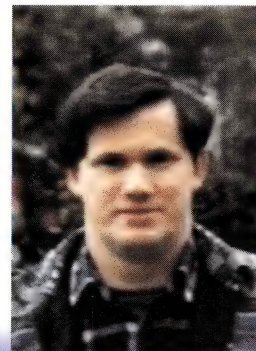


Figure 9. Configuring WinGauge Lite



The Chat Room: Alan Fowler

I sat in the moderate sun of a Sunday afternoon. The plentiful green foliage flowed effortlessly along the terraces of the garden. On the other side of a white outdoor table the keen intellect of an engineer attempted to gauge the character of the young columnist conducting the interview. Why the fuss?

Free assistance by phone

That arouses one's curiosity. Alan Fowler explained that being a volunteer in Melb PC's Dial Help service requires the capacity to explain technical matters simply over the telephone.

Alan is the Dial Help volunteer for Basic (including PowerBasic). Basic is a standard programming language, first used 30 years ago. PowerBasic is an enhanced version of the original, used by serious computer programmers. It is more advanced than other forms of Basic and began life as TurboBasic in the 1980s. PowerBasic can be used for virtually any purpose. Practical uses include databases and mathematical calculations.

Alan has learnt a lot in the process of helping others and also considers that Dial Help is an excellent way to recruit members. In his experience every caller is genuine and most questions require some time to resolve successfully. A reasonable expectation is that even the most complex problems can be solved in an hour at most. According to Alan, a Dial Help volunteer will aid his or her cause by having several reference books available to consult during calls, because no matter the subject, there will always be areas with which you will not be familiar. Alan enjoys helping

people. He has received a great deal of assistance from others during his computing career and feels it is fair that "you put something back".

Other fields of computing that interest him include high-speed modems, such as 56 K and V90. Over the last five months he has read everything that he can on this equipment. The fruits of this labour went into the comprehensive article on the subject published in *PC Update*, September 1998. He believes that the quality of the telephone network provides big problems to high-speed modem users. Up to ten per cent of users cannot achieve the higher speeds they wish to, because of the standard of telephone lines. "If you visit modem newsgroups you will see up to two hundred entries per day, the overwhelming majority of which are complaints about this issue," Alan said.

Alan uses a 486 DX4/100 computer that he does "not do anything very fancy with"—his words. However it achieves the work that Alan wishes to accomplish. He likes "messing around with hardware". He started working with microcomputers in the 1970s. He was employed by Telecom and was the research expert on a Telecom committee that decided the choice of hardware and software to facilitate internal development of computer-based solutions. He

attended the first programming course held at RMIT. Alan is now retired.

Alan has many hobbies apart from computing. These include photography, gardening, welding, learning about Melbourne and walking. He enjoys most handyman-type activities. Much of his time is spent reading, amply

demonstrated by his and his wife's collection of over 2000 books. He finished reading the novel *Artists in Crime* by Ngaio Marsh just before I arrived and enjoys this example of crime fiction that involves the reader in a suspenseful and unpredictable plot.

Melbourne is his favourite city because he knows it well. He would like to visit Paris, Lyon and Athens again and travel to the Greek Islands.

Alan has published many articles on technical and computing subjects. In 1993 he became a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers. His Emeritus College membership of the Electrical College of the Institution of Engineers was presented in 1997. He is most proud of a commendation he received from the Institution in 1992 for assistance in the development of National Competency Standards for Professional Engineers. These three awards line the wall of his study and attest to the contribution that he made to the Institution.

Why the fuss?

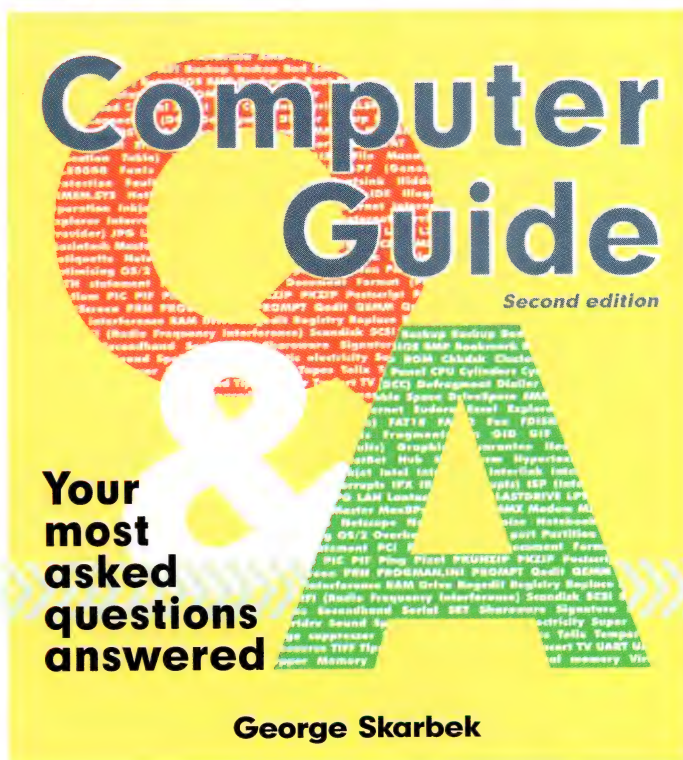
Dial Help is a valuable service, where Melb PC members can receive free assistance by phone. The volunteers who give their time and expertise help other computer users to develop understanding and appreciation of computers. In the process of helping others Dial Help volunteers continue to learn about their computing speciality. Alan Fowler—one of many—makes his considerable knowledge available and enjoys assisting those who contact him. He has received much help in his pursuit of computing and takes the time to contribute to the knowledge of others in return. Dial Help details are on the mailer that came with this issue.

PS

If you wish to suggest the name of a likely candidate to be interviewed please e-mail me at neilblue@virtual.net.au—I look forward to hearing from you. □



Your most asked questions answered



George Skarbek, voted favourite author by *PC Update* readers in 1997, has written a second edition of his book *Computer Guide* — *Your most asked question answered*.

This book is based on material published in the weekly "Q&A" column in the computer section of *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The West Australian* and *The Courier Mail*. Also included are comprehensive articles originally written for Melb PC's award winning magazine, *PC Update*.

The questions and answers have been collated into 19 chapters and many answers have been considerably expanded. This edition has been extensively updated since the publication of the first volume in 1996. Numerous cross-references simplify searching, and several extensively researched articles are included.

Even if this book fixes only one nagging problem, it will have been worth buying

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Over 100 hints and tips have been added in this edition, as well as over 50 screen dumps

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Windows, DOS and more



George Skarbek

- ★ To copy a file to the floppy disk, quickly in Windows Explorer just right-click on the file, select Send To and Floppy.
- ★ If you are using Windows 95 and want to see the date, just hold the mouse pointer over taskbar clock for about one second.
- ★ If your computer has suddenly slowed down, press the Turbo button (if you have one). It is quite possible that it has been pressed by accident by someone else.
- ★ If battery life is important to you, you can conserve battery power on a notebook by degrading its performance during disk activity by performing less disk caching with Windows 95. You do this by right-clicking My Computer then Properties, the Performance tab and then File System. On the Hard Disk tab select Mobile or docking system under "Typical role of this machine". The performance reduction with a Pentium computer is about 5%.
- ★ If you are using DOSKEY, and wish to recall a previous command, just type in the first few characters and then press F8. F7 will list all the commands used.
- ★ A quick way to edit both the AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files is to run SYSEDIT from Windows.
- ★ If the Windows 95 computer stops responding (hangs), press Alt + Ctrl + Del once. You may get a list of all the programs running and one will be marked as "Not Responding". Close just that program and you should be able to continue without a re-boot.
- ★ If various programs have added entries to the "Send To" list in Windows Explorer then you can delete the ones that you will never use by opening the folder C:\WINDOWS\SENDTO and delete the entries that you will never use.
- ★ If you don't have a LAN you may wish to remove the Network Neighbourhood icon on your desktop as it actually doesn't do anything for dial-up connections. There is a way, but dragging it into the recycle bin doesn't work. It is best removed by using TweakUI from Microsoft.
- ★ To view a document quickly without having to load the original large application such as Word or Excel, just right click on that file from Windows 95 Explorer and select Quick View. If Quick View is not available then you must install it by selecting Control Panel, Add/Remove programs, Windows Setup, Accessories, Details and tick Quick View.
- ★ DOS users can use the dot (.) in place of *.* to save typing. To delete everything in the current sub-directory just type DEL. (the space is not required) or COPY. A: to copy every file to the A: drive.
- ★ With most Windows 95 programs, as well as Windows 95 itself, the right mouse usually brings up the Property Manager. This allows you to modify anything associated with the object that you clicked on. If you are not regularly right clicking, start practising now and improve your productivity. □

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GoldMine 4.0

Info Box

GoldMine 4.0

Minimum system

- 486 SX processor
- Win 95 / NT 4.0
- 16 MB RAM
- VGA display adapter
- CD-ROM
- 25 MB free hard disk space.

Availability / cost

Non-network versions of GoldMine are available from local computer resellers. Network versions are sold through a network of authorised resellers.

Contact TechExpress
Ph: (02) 9417 0011
Fax: (02) 9417 2005

GoldMine Standard Edition is US\$295 per single user and US\$895 for each 5-user network licence.

GoldMine Enterprise Edition retails for an additional US\$795 for each 5-user network licence.

GoldMine with embedded runtime version of Microsoft SQL 6.5 retails for an additional US\$1,695 (over the Standard Edition price) for each 5-user network licence.

GoldMine (GM) is a workgroup contact manager that goes far beyond simple addressing and scheduling functions. I last reviewed it in *PC Update*, June 1997, and found it extremely robust and customisable. This time around I'll concentrate on the most noteworthy new features in v4.0.

But first, an introduction

GoldMine is a scalable, workgroup contact manager. You can install it on stand-alone PCs, wide-area networks, corporate systems, and all shades between. Organisational structure and the physical location of individual users are irrelevant; GM doesn't care whether users work out of branch offices, corporate headquarters, or in the field. Each GM user retains the flexibility of having his own personal information manager, while at the same time sharing data with other GM users.

GM revolves around its contact records. Whenever you perform an activity, whether in or out of GM—create an e-mail, send a fax, write a report, schedule an appointment or whatever—you link it to a contact record. This way, you and other GM users build up a complete history of all past and pending activities relating to each contact. Another of GM's strengths is that it helps to tie together the mix of applications that most organisations use—word processor, calendar, fax and e-mail software and so on. This it does by offering built-in functionality, e.g. e-mail, DDE (Dynamic Data Exchange) links and third-party support utilities. With the right mix of applications and utilities,

it's possible to effectively integrate a mishmash of different applications.

Enterprise Edition

While GM Standard Edition installs with industry-standard dBASE IV files, the new client/server Enterprise Edition supports a broad range of other database environments as well, including Oracle, Microsoft SQL and Sybase SQL. This means that you can scale GM to suit each user or set of users. Notebook users, for instance, or those with stand-alone computers, can run off a dBASE database without the heavy resource overhead of client/server databases. Network users can run off a client/server database; even multiple, heterogeneous databases. The Enterprise Edition also offers all the generic advantages of client/server databases, such as increased security, larger databases and multiple access methods. In addition, you can purchase the Enterprise Edition embedded with a run-time version of Microsoft SQL Server 6.5.

Database synchronisation

You can synchronise any GM database with any other, regardless of their underlying database software. GM remembers the steps involved in synchronising each database, so once you've established one successful synchronisation session, you can perform subsequent sessions with the click of a single button. You can also perform concurrent synchronisations, and there are several connection methods, ranging from realtime modem or Internet connections through to indirect, e-mail connections. GM now synchronises not just contact records and

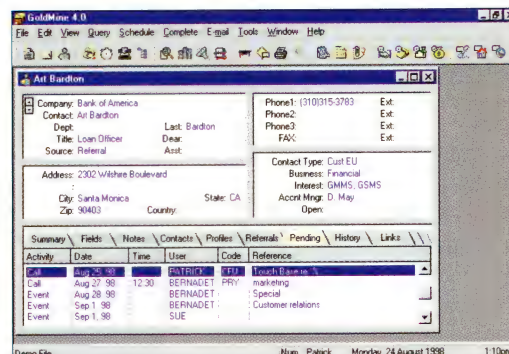


Figure 1. Contact records are the heart of GoldMine

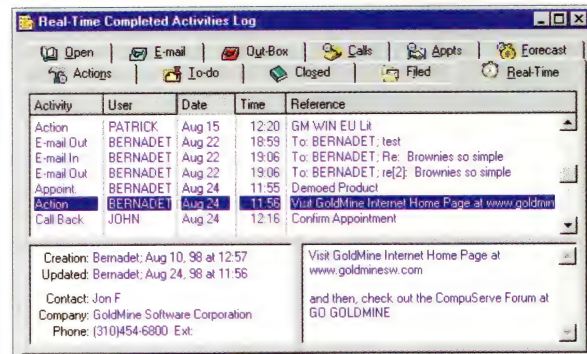


Figure 2. The Activities List displays pending or completed activities for each user

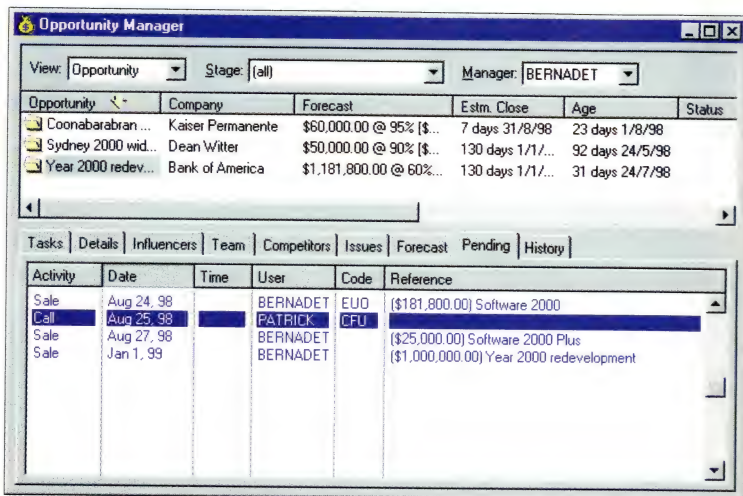


Figure 3. The Opportunity Manager

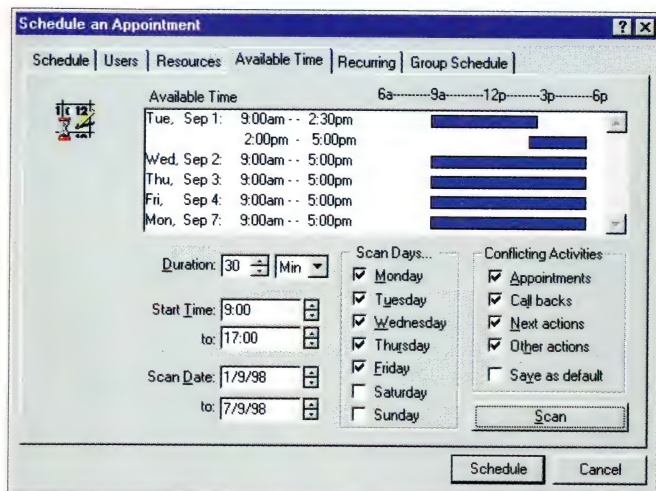


Figure 4. Scanning a workgroup's schedule for available meeting time

calendar changes, but any additions, changes and deletions in any field, including lookups, field definitions and user lists.

Opportunity Manager

Complex sales can involve multiple people working as a team, with multiple contacts, activities and issues. The new Opportunity Manager helps to co-ordinate these efforts and

promote a team approach. By allocating actions, strategies, products and so on to specific projects or sales opportunities, you can track and profile accounts much better. The Opportunity Manager also makes it easier to analyse the sales process. For instance, you can gather information on the average life cycle of a sale or the amount of time a sale stays in a particular stage of the sales cycle.

Industry-specific templates

GM now ships with industry-specific templates which help users get up and running more quickly. Containing customised screens, lookups, Automated processes and document templates, the first release of templates covers the residential real estate and insurance professions.

The BASIC and Tiny Tiger control computers arrive in Australia

Tigers for Superb Control

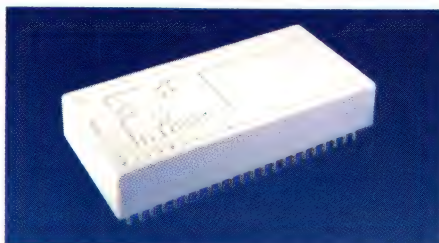
Tigers are small, sealed modules a little larger than a matchbox, but providing inexpensive computer control for a range of applications.

Inside the 44 pin module is a powerful microprocessor running at 20 Mhz, dual UART-driven serial ports, 4 channel, 10-bit ADC, real-time clock/calendar with alarm, a complex 16-bit counter/timer system for pulse generation and measurement and two PWM channels. The Tiger supports an expanded address system accessing 1920 I/O bits.

There are two modules in production:

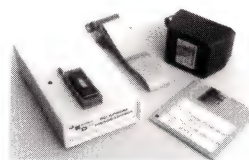
- BASIC Tiger, 44mm by 63mm by 12mm can have up to 4 MB of FLASH and 2 MB of CMOS RAM, with 38 I/O lines;
- Tiny Tiger, 28mm by 60mm by 11mm, with up to 512 kB FLASH, 512 kB RAM, and 36 universal I/O lines. (A 128K FLASH, 128KRAM Tiny Tiger is \$A162)

The emphasis is EASY PROGRAMMING. Tigers are programmed in compiled BASIC, with a W95/98/NT editing screen for entering the program, compiling it, and then down-loading it to the FLASH in the Tiger via an RS232 port. The program can then be single stepped, and variables examined remotely from the same user screen interface. The Tiger is fast and flexible, and handling 8, 16 and 32 bit integers as well as 64 bit REAL. (FP SIN takes 3 milliseconds!) JED is producing a local, 11cm by 15cm Tiger control board with 24 IN, 24 OUT, LCD display and JBUS. Call for details.



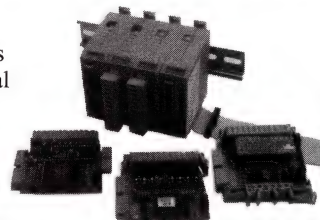
\$300 PROM Programmer

This programmer plugs into a PC's printer port and automatically writes PROMs up to 8MB.



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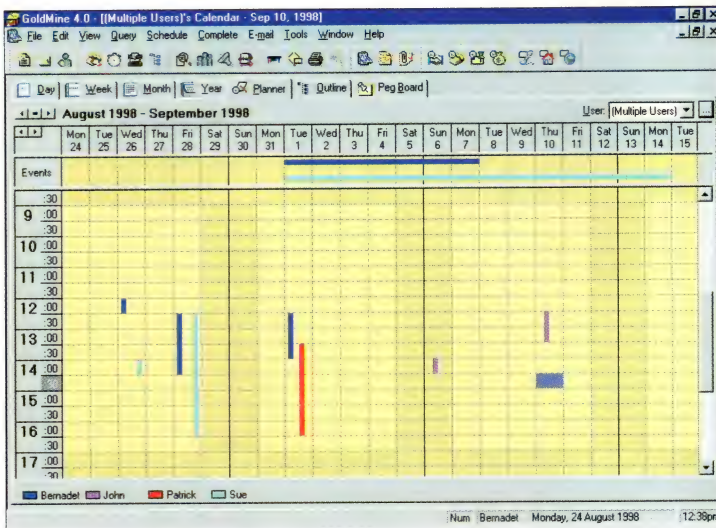


Figure 5. Displaying a workgroup's schedule

E-mail

Enhanced e-mail support includes a one-stop E-mail Center. A major improvement over the last release, it handles multiple e-mail accounts, filters incoming messages, and automatically files mail by month within each folder. At the same time, it links each message to the appropriate contact record. You can also attach contact records to e-mail messages, and send them to Outlook 98 users for merging with the Outlook address book. Outlook users can similarly send Outlook contact records to GM users.

Automated Processes

Automated Processes are processes triggered by pre-defined events. For instance, when a customer makes a purchase, an Automated Process may schedule a follow-up letter

automatically. With GM 4.0, Automated Processes support conditional logic and can launch external applications or generate sub-processes.

Multi-processing and multi-threading

Background activities run in their own protected "thread", so you can perform multiple background activities simultaneously and faster; for instance, check your mail while compiling a report and executing a mail merge.

Network security

System Administrators have greater control over access rights; they can not only remove access to certain commands for specific users, they can also remove the display of those menu options from the user's desktop. As well, they can distribute access rights and other security settings to remote sites and users via synchronisation.

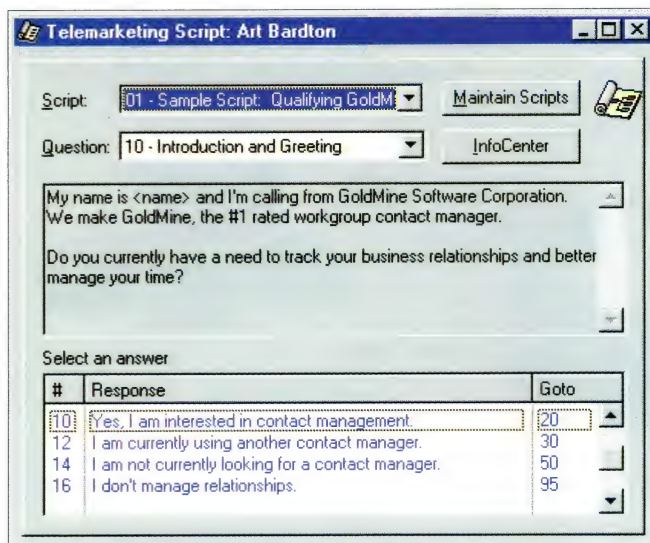


Figure 7. A telemarketing script

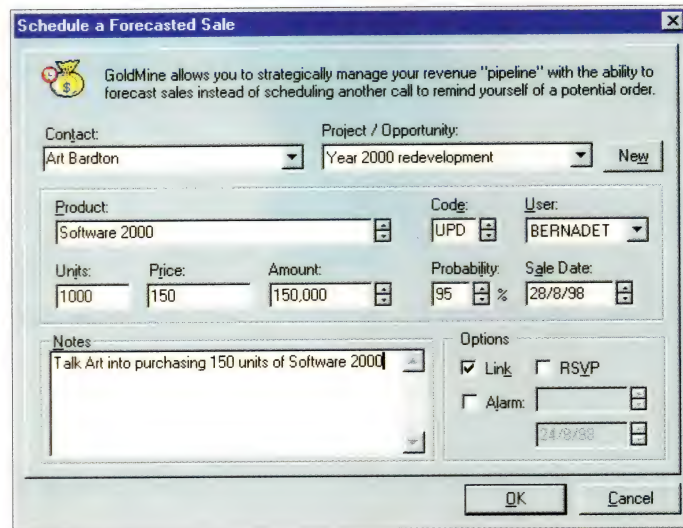


Figure 6. Scheduling a forecasted sale

Assessment

GM is a powerful workgroup contact manager, capable of tracking contacts, analysing activities and profiling accounts to almost infinite depths. It is a very full-featured program that takes some time to learn; however, it is also highly customisable, and there is an established training network. The extensive range of third party support products cover areas as varied as job estimators, accounting links, telephony and mapping solutions.

The main difference between GM and other contact managers lies in GM's strong workgroup support and automation of the sales process. Most of the enhancements with version 4.0 have strengthened these advantages. Used properly, GoldMine will improve communication and co-ordination within your organisation, and help to ensure that users make decisions based upon the most complete and up-to-date information. □

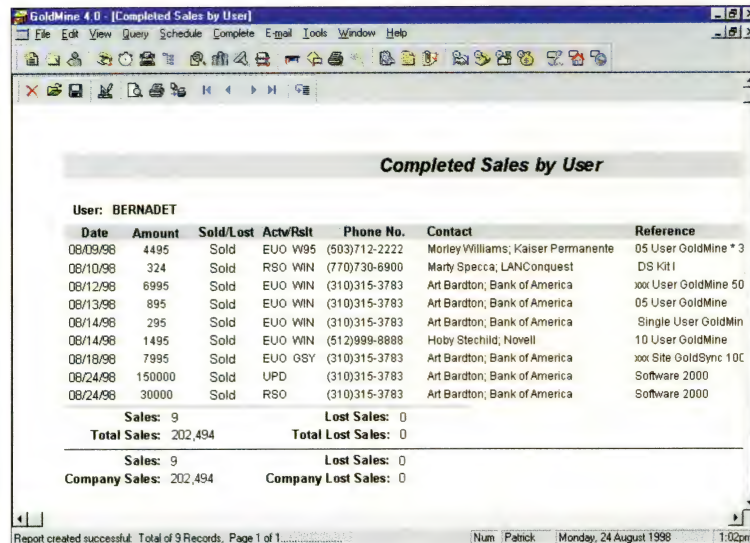


Figure 8. A GoldMine report



A piece of history

From: "The Worsley Press"
<worsley@worsleypress.com>
To: The Editor
Subject: The infant Ash?
Reply-to: worsley@worsleypress.com

Just thought you might be interested in the following, which I found in the July 1987 edition of *Desktop Publishing Magazine*. I especially like the "place in the infant history of desktop publishing".

The winner of our "Desktop Publishing Definition" is Mr Ash Nallawalla, of Werribee, Victoria. His definition was: "Desktop publishing is the harmonious integration of typeset-quality text and complex graphic images using a personal computer and high-resolution printer. It consolidates the skills of writing, illustrating, and page composition with artistic balance, at low cost, aiming to deliver the message clearly and rapidly."

For this, Mr Nallawalla wins the latest version of Microsoft Word—and a place in the infant history of desktop publishing. The judges were impressed with the diversity of entries, ranging from explanations of the mechanics right up to the conceptual. The exercise also forced us to pen our own definition:

"Desktop publishing is the use of personal computers and word processing packages, either alone or with a

layout package, to combine text and graphics to produce near-typeset quality documents from a laser printer."

making the publishing process more democratic, and encouraging readers to participate in this magazine.

» Philippa Yelland
Editor

We've had a very encouraging response from the invitation to guest designers. This is part of

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BJC210/210SP/240/255	BC05	3col 12 ea col	\$59	4076/1020/2030/2050	1380619	3col 6 ea col	\$59
BJC4000/4100/4200/4300/4550	BC20/BC121Bk	Bk 8/60	\$59	500/5700/7000/7200	12A1970	Bk 8	\$59
BJC4000/4100/4200/4300/4550	BC121C	3col 30 ea col	\$59	500/5700/7000/7200	12A1980	3col 12 ea col	\$59
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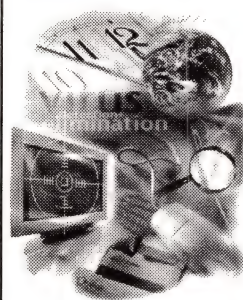
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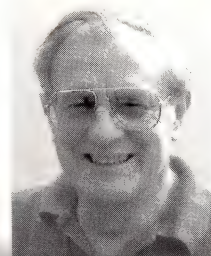
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CPU (Club President's Update)

When many things are about to happen, it is very hard to write about them at a time before they have started but in all probability will have occurred when you read this!

Last month I wrote about the offer from CyberMedia and mentioned a letter that "you should have received in the mail". As it turned out delays at their end meant that you received *PC Update* first, and you may have wondered what you had missed out on. This is just one of the risks I have to take in writing this column.

By the way, over a thousand copies of the CyberMedia products were sold at the special "give-away" cost price to Melb PC members, and I hope many of you took the advantage of the special discount offered by CyberMedia for the upgraded versions. These products have all been reviewed in *PC Update* in recent months and the advantages of the later versions are significant.

Volunteer of the month

October — Ken Gubbins

Ken bought his first computer in 1984 to use in his small importing business, to keep up with the rest of the world. He subsequently joined Melb PC back in 1987.

Being almost fully committed to golf administration for 20 years, Ken took only a casual interest in Melb PC as a member, but shortly after turning 72 his golf commitments decreased.

Then he saw in *PC Update* that the East sig had recently been formed, and he has been a regular attendee ever since. Because of the friendship and help he received he quickly became involved, and when volunteers were needed for the swap meet at Box Hill he raised his hand and has been there ever since.

Despite using his computer for many years Ken claims he is far from an expert and only a plodder best suited to assisting in organising the attendance at swap meets and Sunday workshops, as well as making diskettes of presentations and the tips 'n' tricks sessions.

Ken Gubbins considers his joining Melb PC has been one of the highlights of his life, where he has met many nice and helpful people and, at the age of 75 he is looking forward to having many friends for a long time to come. □

Internet configuration program

Another of those things about to happen is the introduction of a program to configure Internet software correctly for the Melb PC Internet Service. Initially we had the SLIPKIT adapted for Melb PC by Gary Taig using a selection of programs collected by Rich Schinnel of Capital User Group in the US. It is surprising that many of our users still use this package despite many of the programs now being more than five years old!

When Microsoft initially produced a kit to enable us to pre-configure its Internet Explorer browser, Lynn Pollock did an excellent job creating both Win 3.x and Win 95 kits for Melb PC subscribers. Initially it was for MSIE v2, then Lynn updated it following the introduction of v3. Unfortunately these programs have grown so much that it is impractical to repeat the exercise with the introduction of MSIE v4. The Win 95 version would have extended over 22 diskettes, and as such it is practically impossible to distribute and install.

These days un-configured copies of Internet Explorer and Netscape Communicator are freely available from CD-ROMs stuck to the front of just about every commercial computer magazine, in addition to being available for download from our BBS, etc. Members buying new machines with Windows 95 or 98 installed will find Internet Explorer v4 is already installed, and this has caused a problem with members trying to install the Melb PC kit as it was an earlier version.

By the time you read this (dare I say that again?) this new program will be available from the Shareware library (Melb 9192), the BBS, and direct from the Internet via Melb PC Online. Currently a number of members are testing all aspects of the program to ensure that it will make life a lot easier for our Internet subscribers.

It has taken a long time to find this program, and although it is only suitable for Win 95/98 users, we will try to find a similar package for Win 3.x users.



Age shall not weary them

We are most fortunate to have many members in their 80s, who too often feel the need to apologise for not understanding a concept as easily as they once could. If I am still able to use a computer at that age I will be more than happy, just as our volunteers are happy to work with them. Best wishes to them.

However I did receive a complaint from a member who found registering on the BBS an invasion of privacy when it asked for date of birth when registering as a BBS user. I must admit I had forgotten this question was still there, and hasten to add that nowhere else in the Melb PC records is that information kept, as it is of no interest to us.

Many years ago when the BBS was being set up, the team thought it would be a nice thought to give increased access time on the member's birthday, and an additional hour is still granted annually on the date. Whenever I am helping a member connect to the BBS and I come to this question, to save any embarrassment to the member I usually suggest using today's date instead. At the same time I make a mental note to speak to the sysops about changing the questionnaire, but by the time I see them it has slipped my memory once again.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience to any member who has experienced this, and please feel free to set any date you like when you come across it. Come to think of it, I suppose sooner or later someone will try a date in 2000 and bring the whole system crashing down around our ears. That might be the final straw!

A woman's place?

While in an apologetic mode, another letter I received this month was from a women member who wished to share one of her experiences which might explain why fewer women than men join Melb PC.

In an effort to seek more information on how she could put her computer to wider use, she attended one of the SIG meetings at Dorcas Street. "The presenter was late and arrived looking very dishevelled—not a professional appearance at all." There were only three members present, two men and herself.

Later one of the men added to her embarrassment by making unsuitable remarks about her lack of knowledge in a number of ways. Naturally she came away feeling rejected and not friendly towards Melb PC. I don't blame her.

Some SIGs attract large, regular audiences, are very well run and I believe can be recommended without reservation. On the other hand a couple of SIGs have declined and attract only a handful of regulars whose only interest appears to be a social gathering that could be well spent elsewhere. We have a policy whereby a declining SIG can be closed, and I have asked **Joe Henry**, our SIG co-ordinator, to follow this up.

At the same time we believe there are openings to provide new SIGs for interests such as Software for Children (both fun and educational), students of all ages, games and other hobbies, and hopefully introduce the opportunity for some professional networks to share experiences in computer use. It takes only 12 signatures from members to start a new SIG and if anyone has an interest in any of these (or others), we would be pleased to help get it started.

My apologies once again to the member concerned. We hope you and anyone else who has had a similar experience will give us another try.

V.90—what does it mean?

Last month I mentioned increasing the number of Internet lines, however it was fortunate I included the phrase "await the installation by Telstra". Just as well, as a couple of deadlines have passed already due to strikes in the industry! Enough said!

The release of the V.90 protocol was also expected in September but manufacturers are still beta-testing. The 60 additional Internet lines we are waiting for will be coupled with equipment set for the V.90 protocol and, as our users gradually convert, we will change-over the existing k56flex lines.

In readiness for the new lines I have already obtained the flash upgrade from the manufacturer for the 56K modem I am using—after all, someone has to be the bunny to first try out anything that is new. However these are changing times, and I am watching out for anything later that is released. For those frightened by the mention of a "flash upgrade", let me assure you that it is simply a matter of obtaining the appropriate program from your modem manufacturer, which, as it runs, simply writes upgraded settings and information to your modem's memory.

I have had three upgrades to my 56K modem in the past 12 months, and yet another to change it to V.90 presents no fears at all.

The excellent article by **Alan Fowler** in last month's *PC Update* on high-speed modems was very well received by our members and I am sure they have a much better understanding of the problems involved. Following a request by one of our members for Telstra to attempt to explain the difference in connect speeds, a senior Telstra engineer visited my home to make tests on my phone line, and to discuss various aspects of members' problems.

We did find there is quite a variation in line performance, although whether the difference is really significant is still arguable. As Alan said in his article, telephone lines were never designed for the demands we now place on them.

As the Telstra engineer left I gave him a copy of *PC Update*, which had arrived the same day. Three hours later he called, asking whether he could distribute it to other members of Telstra's engineering staff. A few days later I was speaking to one of our members, who is an Internet Service Provider. He asked whether we would be posting the article on the Web—if so, he would immediately direct a link from his own service for the benefit of his users.

It's great to think, and it is due to the experience of members such as Alan Fowler, that Melb PC can teach users elsewhere a thing or two. We get many complaints from members who are fobbed off with uninformed answers from public utilities and vendors—we make every effort to ensure that we only provide correct answers to problems.

What about V.90? Well, after my incorrect statements of last month I think I would be better placed to just sit here and wait and see what happens!

Spring cleaning—it's hell!

While waiting for those planned efforts to be implemented, I have been using the time to have a clean up of my computer—and with a bit of luck I will also clear some of the stuff on my desk to see what it is made of.

These days it seems well worthwhile re-installing your complete system about every six months, particularly if, like me, you are involved in experimenting and evaluating software.

Probably mid-winter would be the best time to do this, spending a wet weekend on the job, however that was a pretty busy time too!

Best wishes,



Seeing the Basics: Did you know?

This column provides techniques, tips, and tricks to help you gain familiarity and experience with MS Visual Basic, a popular language that enables you to write both Windows and World Wide Web applications quickly.

This month's column continues with a look at some of the different and interesting aspects of the Visual Basic language, all presented together under the general title of "Did You Know?".

A quick way of changing properties

One of Visual Basic's strengths is undoubtedly its use of properties to alter the behaviour and appearance of Windows' objects. However, it can be slightly annoying, not to mention time-consuming, when you want to change the same property on a largish number of controls on a form.

For example, you might have a dozen TextBoxes on a form which are to be invisible when your program first executes. In design mode, rather than setting the Visible property of each TextBox individually, do the following instead. Left-click the first TextBox using your mouse, and then, while holding down the Ctrl key on the

keyboard, left-click all of the remaining TextBoxes. As you click each one, you'll notice that its border will change colour.

Once you've clicked all the TextBoxes, press the F4 key. This will cause the Property window to open and display. Now to set the Visible property, simply double-click its caption in the Property window to toggle between the possible values of True and False.

Try this procedure again, but this time click on a TextBox and a command button on a form instead. Even though these two types of control have their own unique properties, this Ctrl key method still allows you to change those properties quickly, like the Visible property, which are common to both controls.

Bookmark your VB code

As your Visual Basic programs become more complex, they inevitably grow larger in size, too. This increase in the number of lines of code can sometimes make it frustrating to find particular sections of code quickly.

However, Visual Basic 5.0 easily solves the problem with its use of "bookmarks", just one of the new functions of the

Code Editor. As its name suggests, this feature allows a nominated line of code to be associated with a bookmark for quick reference. Multiple bookmarks can be set up for any project.

To see how bookmarks work, open the code window of any Visual Basic program, and select a line of code by left clicking it with the mouse.

Next, click "Edit" on the main VB design menu, and scroll down until the mouse cursor is over the last entry, "Bookmarks". From the subsequent cascading menu, click "Toggle Bookmark". The selected line of code is now identified as a bookmark by a coloured indicator displayed in the left hand margin of the code window.

It's easy to remove a bookmark. Simply select the line of code which has been designated as a bookmark, and follow the procedure outlined above to toggle it off.

However, a quicker, more convenient way of toggling bookmarks on and off is to right click a selected line of code using your mouse, and then to click the "Toggle" and "Bookmark" options from the subsequent menus (see Figure 1).

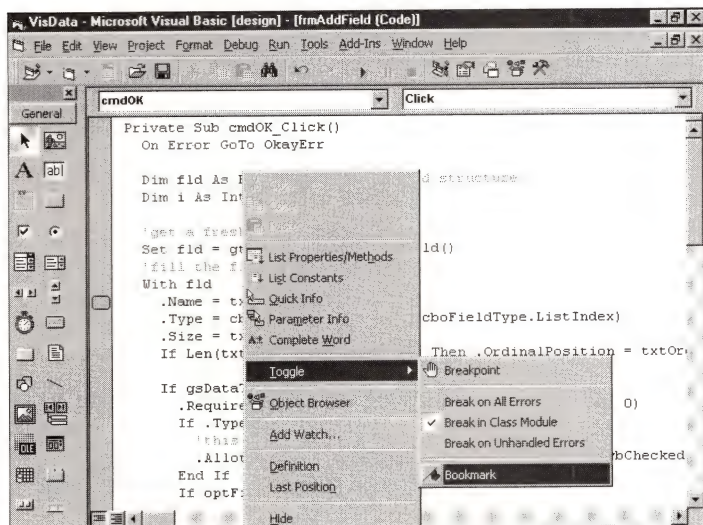


Figure 1. Using bookmarks to navigate around VB code

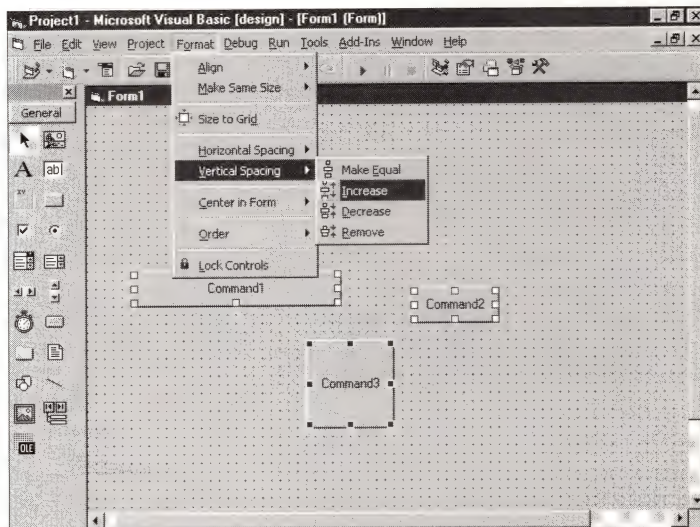


Figure 2. Advanced alignment capabilities available on VB's Format

Note also how the "Toggle" option can be used to set breakpoints on and off as well.

Once a number of bookmarks have been inserted into the code, it's then possible to move backwards and forwards between them using the "Next Bookmark" and "Previous Bookmark" on the "Bookmarks" option of the "Edit menu". From there, it's also possible to clear all bookmarks with a single click of your mouse using "Clear All Bookmarks".

Designing forms quickly

Another of Visual Basic's great strengths is that creating a program's graphical user interface is largely just a matter of pointing and clicking with your mouse.

But by using the new functions available on Visual Basic 5.0's Format menu (see Figure 2), interface design has now been made even simpler through the use of its advanced alignment capabilities.

To see how these functions work, start a new standard VB 5.0 project and add three command buttons, of different sizes, to its default form.

Firstly, let's experiment by making the command buttons all the same size.

To do so, first select all the command buttons (see discussion above about how to simultaneously select multiple controls).

Next, click the "Format" option on VB's main design menu, and

then select the option "Make Same Size". The cascading menu that now appears provides the options of making the widths of all the command buttons the same, or their heights the same, or both their widths and heights the same. Click the last option, and voila!—all three command buttons are now identical.

This time, let's align the command buttons. As before, make sure all the buttons are selected, and again select the "Format" option. Then click "Align", followed by the "Lefts" from the subsequent cascading menu.

The result is that, with very little effort, the command buttons are now neatly aligned. Options available here also enable controls to be moved to the centre, right, top, middle, bottom, and so on.

Experiment yourself with the other different sorts of alignment options available on the "Format" menu. For example, try altering the horizontal or vertical spacing between selected controls on a form.

By providing these advanced alignment capabilities, VB 5.0 frees programmers from the more tedious aspects of interface design, and instead allows them to concentrate on writing the associated code.

Visual Basic 6.0 has been released

Next month's "Seeing the Basics" will take an in-depth look at the latest release of Visual Basic. □

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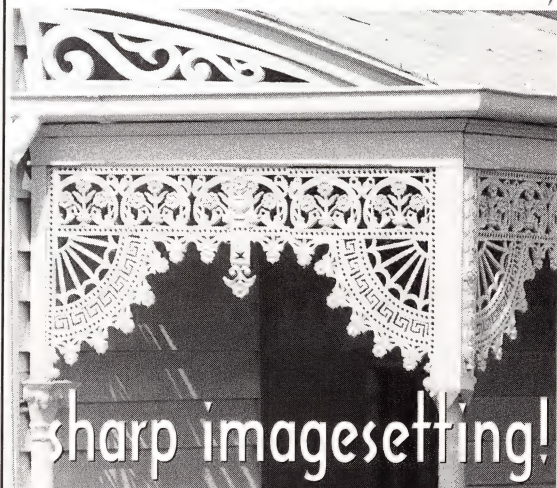
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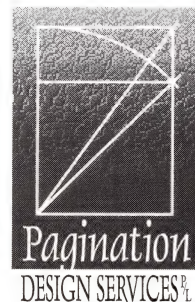
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The Five Square Puzzle

**it never works
the first time,
programming
keeps you
humble**

So, how many of you tried to type the program from "Solving puzzles with Basic" in the August issue? If so, we owe an apology for three missing "less than" signs (<) — a technical foible of the publishing program which has its own use for this symbol. I had no complaints so assume those interested worked it out. And, how many had a go at the Age-type puzzle mentioned at the end? I'm assuming you are a lazy lot to give me an excuse to cover it with this article.

Puzzle addicts are familiar with the type that appears in The Age each Saturday. A 5 x 5 table contains letters a-k, representing the digits 0-9, and the totals are given for all rows and columns. All ten digits must be used and two letters have their values already revealed. The

central square is blank but has a value equal to one of the letters, which we must find; let us call it "x" initially.

I assume it is expected that most will try to solve it by arithmetical trial and error. The fact that no two letters can have the same value would lower the number of possibilities to be tried, but I have never persisted with this approach as I have better things to do on a Saturday. An algebraic route seems more interesting. Putting aside row 3 and column 3 for the moment, the other eight rows/columns provide eight relationships between the eight unknown variables — eminently solvable. Successive manipulations of chosen pairs of equations, in the way of all good algebrologists, will find the values eventually; it is wise to number the equations to keep track as you will

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```
'agepuzz.bas
DEFINT A-Z
' d e g j k
' g b h (=8) c h (=8)
' f d x e j
' a (=7) k d a (=7) e
' c e f b c
' 23 8 24 26 24
CLS
a = 7: h = 8
FOR g = 0 TO 9
  FOR b = 0 TO 9: c = 14 - g - b 'row 2
  FOR j = 0 TO 9: e = 19 - j - b - c 'col 4
  k = 16 - j - e - c 'col 5
  d = 3 - k - e 'row 4
  IF e + b + d + k + e = 8 THEN 'col 2
  IF d + e + g + j + k = 18 THEN 'row 1
  f = 16 - d - g - c 'col 1
  IF c + e + f + b + c = 19 THEN 'row 5
  x = 21 - f - d - e - j 'row 3
  PRINT " a b c d e f g h j k x"
  PRINT a; b; c; d; e; f; g; h; j; k; x
'Answer 7 3 5 1 2 4 6 8 9 0 5 x=c
  END IF 'end of row 5 check
  END IF 'end of row 1 check
  END IF 'end of col 2 check
NEXT j
NEXT b
NEXT g
DO: LOOP WHILE INKEY$ = ""
```

Program Listing

end up with about thirty of them. Then you can use either row 3 or col 3 to get the value of "x" and hence the letter to which it is equal.

Using a computer program, in your language of choice, lets you take the trial and error approach as it will run speedily through the possibilities. The program is a nesting of FOR/NEXT loops and IF/END IF blocks which may need to be varied slightly depending on the positioning of the variables, particularly the two revealed values.

We start by selecting a row or column with the least number of unknowns—row 2 in the example shown. Nested loops for "g" and "b" get us started and, for each pair, "c" is determined by row 2. Comments are very useful in keeping track of which row/col you have used; also, it helps to mark in the puzzle table which letters you have already involved by putting a dot near them, ie. "g", "b" and "c" here, in row 2 and every other occurrence.

Note that we won't try to avoid false

solutions where two letters have the same value or letters have values outside the range 0—9, as we can print out all solutions and ignore the obviously wrong ones. This avoids a lot of tedious programming and does not significantly affect running time.

Now we see that col 4 has only two unknowns, "j" and "e", so we loop through "j" and, for each value, "e" is given by col 4. Also, "k" will be given by col 5 and "d" by row 4. Next, we nest a couple of IF / END IF blocks to check that col 2 and row 1 are satisfied. If so, "f" will be determined using col 1 and, then, another IF / END IF block will check whether row 5 is satisfied. Is it? We have a solution and can use row 3 (or col 3) to find "x".

Now we print out the letter values and, by inspection, can reject the wrong solutions and nominate which letter is equal to "x" in the correct one. The solution is in a comment in the middle of the program. It also prints out a "solution" which obviously doesn't

meet all criteria, that is,

```
a b c d e f g h j k x
7 1 6 1 4 2 7 8 8 -2 6
```

When you have written this successfully (in QBasic), you can make a copy of it as a template to solve next Saturday Age's puzzle by changing the letters and numbers and, probably, the exact sequence of nestings. I like to think everyone is like me and makes silly mistakes—it never works the first time, programming keeps you humble. If you are really masochistic, try for a full program which won't let any wrong solutions through. For example, after FOR b = 0 TO 9, start an IF/END IF block as follows, IF b <> g THEN. Then, after finding "c", start IF c <> g AND c <> b AND c < 10 AND c > -1 THEN. Make sure the "END IF"s are placed for proper nesting. It gets (much) worse and you will probably give up.

Of course, you can translate all of this to your favourite language. After all, this is really about practicing programming, not solving puzzles. □

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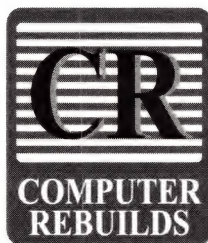
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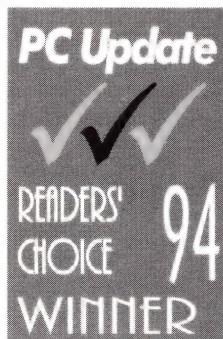
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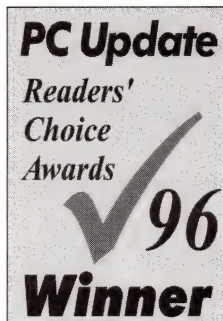
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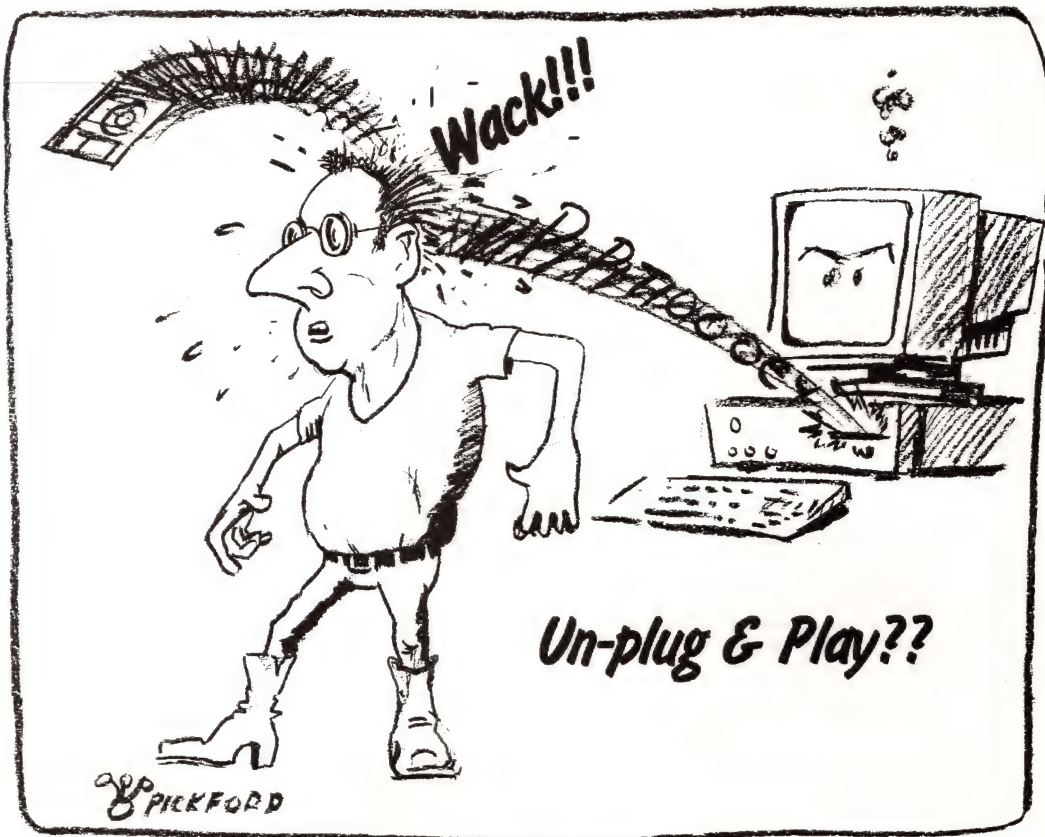
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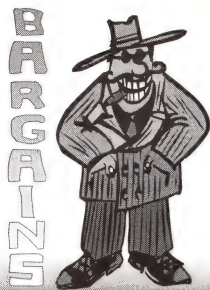
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1-2-3 for Windows Answers (Osborne). Covers Releases 4 and 5. \$10
Quicken 4 for Windows Answers (Osborne). \$10
dBASE 5 Unleashed (Sams). \$25
Teach Yourself dBASE for Windows (MIS Press). \$10
dBASE for Windows Made Easy (Osborne). \$15
Laura Lamey's Web Workshop—NetObjects Fusion 2, includes tutorial CD. (Sams). \$35
Laura Lamey's Web Workshop—FrontPage 97, includes tutorial CD—

unopened. (Sams). \$30
Quickbooks for Profit (McGraw Hill). \$5
Create Wealth with Quicken (Prima). \$6
QuarkXpress for Windows—Designer Handbook (IDG Books). \$10
Teach Yourself Excel 5—for the Mac (MIS Press). \$5
Word Perfect 6 for Windows—Pocket Reference (Osborne). \$5
1 Minute Reference Guide to Lotus 1-2-3 (V.3.4) (Alpha Books). \$5
Up and Running with Norton Utilities 6 (Sybex). \$6
Introduction to Internet Security—From Basics to Beyond (Prima). \$10
Internet for Windows—AOL Edition (Prima). \$6
Lotus Works 3—Everything you need to know (Prima). \$5
Upgrading your PC to Multimedia (Que). \$15

Lotus Ami Pro V.3 User's Guide (Lotus). \$12
Lotus Approach V.3 User's Guide (Lotus). \$12
MS Powerpoint V.4 User's Guide (Microsoft). \$15
Windows for Workgroups and MS DOS Users Guide (Microsoft). \$15
Using FTP—The User Friendly Reference (Que). \$15
Micro Computer Applications for Business (Guide to DOS, WP 5.1, 1-2-3 r2.4 and dBASE IV. \$5
Protection and Security on the Information Superhighway (Frederick B Cohen, Wiley). \$12

Books for Games:

That's Edutainment—A Parent's Guide to Educational Software. Includes CD with trial and demo versions of kids games. (Osborne). \$20
Sherlock Holmes—Consulting Detective Strategy Guide (Prima). \$8
Sid Meyer's Civilization Strategy Guide (Prima). \$8
Dungeon Master 11—Legend of Skullkeep Adventurer's Guide (Prima). \$5
The Legend of Kyrandia Strategy Guide (Prima). \$8
Subwar 2050 Strategy Guide (Prima). \$8

I also have heaps of magazines—Windows, APC, PC User, PC Update, Family PC, etc, etc, dating from 1992 to 1995/6. Any offers?

John 9557 1535 or
jv@melbpc.org.au

Advertisements from members, for Swap, Wanted, For Sale, Free, etc, are run free of charge.

All ads must be uploaded as a file NB: not a message) to the BBS (NB: not the Internet) in ASCII format to area PCUP, or supplied as an ASCII file on a virus-free non-returnable MS-DOS diskette (any size) and **delivered to the Group's Office.**

We do not have the time to type your ads, so this service is only available for electronic advertisements.

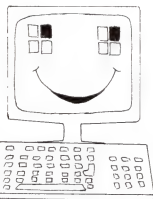
Infected disks are thrown out, without attempting to disinfect or recover data!

Members' ads will be included in the first available issue of *PC Update*.

Advertisements must include at least one phone number—if you only want replies via the BBS or Internet, only advertise there.

PC SUPPORT and TUITION SERVICES

- Personalised Computer tuition, to suit your needs
- Computer Problems Solved
- Ages 9 to 99 catered for
- Small Office Networking Solutions



For PCs using:
DOS Windows 3.x Windows 95
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Phone (03) 9527-8805 Mob 0419-335-221
E-mail pfselig@melbpc.org.au

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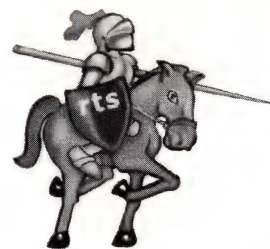
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The tools of Acrobat Exchange

PDF (portable document format) produces a perfect visual reproduction of your original document, with the added benefit of a smaller file size and enhanced navigability. Acrobat's portability across an extensive range of hardware and operating systems makes it ideal for use in e-mail, on Web sites, Intranets and in data retrieval and archiving applications. Today most popular applications, for electronic publishing and pre-press, produce output that can be converted easily into PDF format. There are at least 70 million users of Acrobat Reader in the world.

This article presents an overview of Acrobat Exchange tools and settings that can be applied to PDF files. In particular it covers ways you can improve navigation through the use of devices such as thumbnails, bookmarks, links, articles and notes.

I will not cover forms, fields and indexing—because they are more complex, and require more than a brief explanation. These advanced techniques are most useful; forms and fields are especially useful when you want to submit data to a server straight from a PDF document, while indexing your PDF documents make them simpler to archive and make it easier to retrieve data from one or a group of PDF documents.

The tools

Thumbnails

Thumbnails are miniature pages that are displayed in a column alongside the document being viewed. Thumbnails make navigating between pages easier as you simply click on the corresponding thumbnail, to go to the page you want. With thumbnails you can also re-size the page with the mouse cursor.

Bookmarks

Bookmarks enable you to have links (displayed down the side of your page)

to key places within a PDF document, other documents, a web browser, a multimedia file, and so on. If all the people that use a PDF document are connected on a network, they can access virtually any file type that is linked to it. For instance, clicking on a bookmark could automatically open a spreadsheet, Word file, another PDF document, or play an audio passage. Inside a single PDF, making bookmark links to such things as chapters, headings, images, tables and appendices, reduces the time the user spends locating important parts of a document.

Links

Like hypertext links in HTML documents, PDF Links enable you to link between objects on a page or between pages. You can display or hide the links you make, set various view settings and link to the same things you can with bookmarks.

You make links with a cross-hair tool, which you drag over the place you want the link to be. You can select any menu item to execute once the link is clicked. For example, you could have a link to Find, a link that prompts the user to Extract pages or to open and display Document Info. Links also work well with forms.

Notes

Another way of providing information about a page is with the use of notes. Notes appear as small colourful icons on the page. When you click on them, a small note opens, that refers to something in the document. These work very well when several people are sharing a document. A list of all the notes in a document can be turned into another PDF document, which shows details such as ID, name, creation and revision dates. Notes can also be imported and exported between PDFs.

Articles

Articles are a useful way of making pages or areas of a document easier to view and navigate through.

Additionally, whatever you select to be in the article will be zoomed to fit the full size of the page. Once an article is created, whenever the hand cursor moves over it a new hand icon appears. Clicking the hand cursor automatically displays whatever has been selected as the article.

For example, to show an image or chart at a full screen size, you would put an article around it. Now all the user has to do is click on the article to view it in full screen mode. Another click takes the user back to the original view.

An article can also connect blocks of text in a series of articles that a reader can move between with a click of the mouse cursor. For example, in a two-column document you could have a series of connected articles in which a click at the bottom of the first column takes you to the top of the second, without having to scroll back up each time.

Editing PDFs

The nature of PDF files—which are essentially an electronic print of the original document—means that they often contain fairly static information, generally the final output of say a desktop publishing or word processing program. Acrobat Exchange itself provides little opportunity for correcting anything more than small portions of text. You can not, for example, change tables, columns or the location of images. You can use the TouchUp text command to fix typos, page numbers, colour, style and font size. But changes can only be minor as adding or removing text is bound to effect the layout.

Interestingly, third-party Acrobat developers have recently released some plug-ins that provide far greater power to edit PDFs. With them you can extract, replace and import sections, realign text and so on.

Settings

Document Info

Document Info provides details on the document such as the title, author, subject and keywords. This information can be particularly useful when indexing PDFs. There are also options for setting the initial document view (how the document opens) and how it is displayed as you move through it.

Preferences

You use preferences to set up the way readers will navigate through the document. For example, you can set the pages to automatically advance after a certain time.

Other ways of editing PDF files include cropping, rotating, inserting, extracting, replacing and deleting pages. Using Select graphics you can select specific parts of a document and copy them into the clipboard, but not remove them from the PDF file.

Import images

With a scanner you can import images directly into a PDF file. This makes it very easy to store office information electronically — faxes, notes, contracts, etc. It also improves the ease with which individuals in a company can access information.

About Round Table Solutions

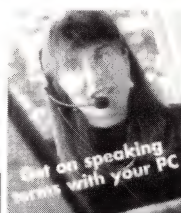
Round Table Solutions (RTS) is a Melbourne-based solutions provider which focuses on developing commercial and custom software based on Adobe's Portable Document Format technology. RTS's latest release is the Educational A-Frame, a multimedia training tool. A PDF version of this article is available from the RTS Web site at <http://www.roundtable.com.au/>

You can also download the latest version of the Acrobat reader from the site, rather than going all the way to Adobe's US web site. □

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4.3Gb Deskstar	\$359.00
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8.4Gb Deskstar	\$495.00
10.1Gb Deskstar	\$546.00

QUANTUM

2.5Gb SE	\$279.00
5.1Gb SE	\$369.00
6.4Gb SE	\$427.00
7.6Gb SE	\$481.00
8.4Gb SE	\$542.00

We are moving!

As of mid-October, our
address will be:
**395 Belmore Rd, East
Balwyn, VIC 3129**

Other contact details will
remain the same.



SCSI DRIVES

IBM

4.5Gb Ultrastar 7200	\$926.00
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9.1Gb Wide 10000 rpm	\$1436.00

SEAGATE

4.5Gb Big Bear Ultra	\$592.00
6.5Gb Big Bear Ultra	\$812.00
4.5Gb Barracuda Ultra	\$1130.00
9Gb Barracuda UWide	\$1833.00
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Member's letter

Life, death, bugs and beastsies

» Ian McDowell

After reading the *PC Update* article, I downloaded Ken Holmes' bug population behaviour programs, and played them with pleasure and profit. Absolutely no reflection on Ken, but a certain amount of apprehension too. They took me back about 13 years.

We used to get simple pleasure at work from little programs like DRAIN and FACE. DRAIN made washing machine spin-dry sounds which spun the water out of the floppy drive, with onscreen commentary. FACE put up to ten little faces at random positions on the screen and bounced them off whatever else was on it. HELP called through the speaker for release from imprisonment in the computer. We put these in someone's AUTOEXEC file, and enjoyed their consternation.

Scientific American mathematical recreations pages presented articles on onscreen battles. John Horton Conway's 1970 "Game of Life", modelling the growth of cellular automata, is still available. Wallpaper

designing programs appeared. Next Scientific American introduced us to "core wars".

In "core wars", rival machine language programs, quite brief, fought in video memory for possession of the display. Some of us experimented with writing these (replications, jumps and possessions). Competitions between USA writers compared programs' powers. It was but a short step to writing others that caused beastsies to eat away at word processor, etc screens from the edges, to the fright of the operator.

The rest is history. Boot sector viruses appeared, and in the pre-VET era our team spent much time clearing them off work computers and laying heavy words on staff. Here is the point at last. Concerned at where all this led, we wiped FACE, DRAIN and their relatives wherever we could find them, and treated computer folly like the current TV ads treat workplace bullying of newcomers. Computer respect—think it, talk it, work it.

POPULATION is a fine learning tool. But let the bugs do no more than destroy each other. □

AGM and Elections

Notice is hereby given that the 15th Annual General Meeting of Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated will be held on Wednesday 2 December 1998 at the Pharmacy College, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville at 6.30 pm.

The December issue of *PC Update* will give details of Committee nominations and proxy forms for those unable to attend in person.

Agenda—Annual General Meeting

1. Minutes

To consider and, if thought appropriate, pass the following resolution: "That the Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting held on 3 December 1997, be approved as a true and correct record."

2. Reports

To receive the report from the President.

3. Election of Committee of Management

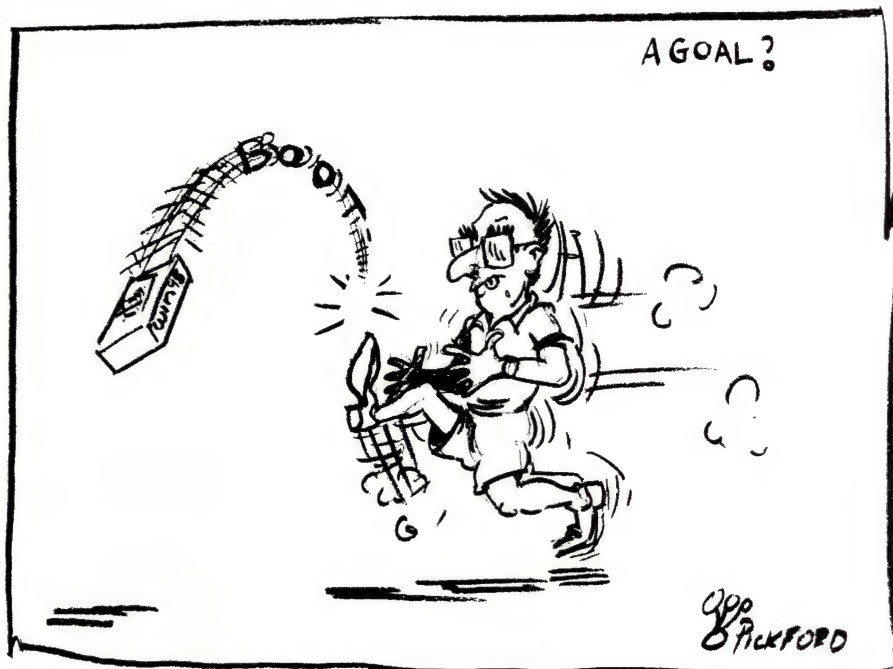
President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and eight ordinary members of Committee.

4. Accounts

To receive and consider the Treasurer's report and, if thought appropriate, pass the following resolution: "That the statement pursuant to section 30 (3) of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* containing the Income and Expenditure of the Group for the year to 30 June 1998 and the assets and liabilities of the Group at 30 June 1998 be accepted."

5. Appointment of Auditor

Under rule 37 such Auditor may not be a member of the Committee, but may be a member of the Group, and shall be a member of the Australian Society of Accountants, Victorian Division or the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Australia, Victorian Branch, in public practice. □



*John Swale,
Secretary*



Nominations

Nominations may be made on the form opposite, a photocopy of the form or on any other form that includes all the information on the form opposite.

Nominations must either be posted to:

The Secretary
Melbourne PC User Group Inc
PO Box 283
South Melbourne VIC 3205

or be hand- or courier-delivered to:

The Secretary
Melbourne PC User Group Inc
27 Dorcas Street
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Nominations delivered by fax, e-mail or BBS cannot be accepted. Nominations of candidates shall be in writing, signed by two members of the group and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination). They must be received by the Secretary before 5.00 pm on Friday 30 October 1998.

Nominations received after the closing time will not be accepted.

Nominations not accompanied by all three signatures will not be accepted.

A Candidate may optionally submit one statement each, *not exceeding 100 words* [Rule 23 (6) (d)], in support of his or her nomination(s). This statement must be received by the closing time for nominations. Any statement received late, or exceeding 100 words, will be rejected.



Nomination Form

Position(s) for which nomination is made (tick as appropriate).

President ☐

Vice-President ☐

Secretary ☐

Treasurer ☐

Committee Member ☐

Candidates's name and
membership number

..... No:.....

Candidate's signature
of acceptance

.....

Candidate's
residential address

.....

Proposer's name and
membership number

..... No:.....

Proposer's signature

.....

Seconder's name and
membership number

..... No:.....

Seconder's
signature

.....

Date / / 1998

Why not join Melb PC?

Melb PC is many things to many people, after all it is the second largest user group in the world! Although each of our thousands of members has a unique experience of Melb PC, we have a common belief in the value of computer users helping other computer users.

Helping them do what?

The list is almost endless—some of the things Melb PC is best known for are:

- **Supporting**
Practical and emotional support. Whether you're trying to install a new operating system, hard drive, word processor or flight simulator, someone at Melb PC has been there and done that. You may find a whole group of people who meet regularly to discuss the very problem you are experiencing.
- **Meeting**
One of the ways Melb PC helps its members support each other is through meetings. Within its diverse membership you'll find novices, old hands and everyone in between. Whatever you're trying to do, there's someone to help you. As a member of Melb PC, you'll also have the opportunity to meet industry leaders and technical experts representing major software and hardware vendors. They'll answer your questions and demonstrate the latest developments in computing technology, often before the general public gets the news.
- **Teaching, learning and enjoying**
As an organisation, Melb PC with its range of skills and knowledge provides a range of formal and informal opportunities for teaching and learning new computing skills.

So whatever you use a computer for, Melb PC helps you enjoy it more!

How?

Melb PC's greatest strength is its membership. With more than 11,500 members, it is the world's second largest PC User Group. It was founded in 1984, and is still run by and for its members, people like you.

Although Melb PC employs some staff, most functions from writing and editing the group's magazine, to maintaining the group's online services, organising monthly meetings, etc, are performed by volunteers.

Who belongs to Melb PC?

Anyone who uses a computer at work, school or play. Parents, children, grandparents and singles. Beginners, old hands, youngsters, oldsters and inbetweensters. Teachers, students, business operators, secretaries, CEOs, doctors, lawyers, plumbers, electricians, builders, pilots, writers, editors, engineers, journalists, accountants and more!

You name it, Melb PC's members do it. Your membership is your key to a vast store of knowledge, an invaluable information resource and help in many fields.

Your benefits of membership come to you in many ways throughout the year:

- **PC Update**
Eleven times a year, Melb PC's magazine, *PC Update* brings you news about computer hardware, software and how your fellow members use these to achieve their goals. You'll read about members' experiences, learning from their successes and mistakes. Each issue also covers the group's regular activities and any special "members only" events or offers the group has arranged. Your yearly membership, which includes *PC Update* delivered to you, costs about as much as it would to buy a year's issues over the counter.
- **Computer First-Aid and Dial Help**
Free vendor support is scarcer every year. It's no wonder many members find these two services, alone, worth the cost of membership. These are "members only" services. Experienced volunteers share their time and knowledge to help fellow members work through problems. Just knowing there is someone to call gives some members the courage to try something new.
- **Internet Access**
The Internet is the foundation of the communication revolution and the key to success in the new millennium. Melb PC pioneered the provision of affordable Internet access and remains an acknowledged leader offering very competitively priced Internet access to members. The fast and reliable service provides connection speeds up to 56 kbps, with pre-configured software for ease of installation, helpful technical support, and is constantly evolving in pace with emerging technology.
- **Training**
Whether you're an absolute beginner planning to buy your first computer or a power user looking to update your skills, Melb PC has a training course for you. Most

courses are hands on, conducted in Melb PC's own, modern, Pentium-equipped training centre. These courses are "members only" so they are cost-competitive compared to similar courses elsewhere. Each month *PC Update* contains details of forthcoming courses.

• Meetings

Our main monthly meetings include presentations by leading computer hardware and software vendors to Melb PC members and their guests.

Speakers have included industry giants such as Bill Gates, Philippe Kahn and Gordon Eubanks, as well as the CEOs and senior managers from most major Australian and overseas vendors. Members can win software worth thousands of dollars at these meetings.

The monthly meeting provides an opportunity to ask questions and get to know your fellow members better. With an average of 400 members attending, the meetings are great for exploring your fellow members' problem-solving skills.

• SIGs

If big groups aren't for you, or if you have a special interest, Special Interest Groups (SIGs) may be your thing. A SIG can deal with any topic, from a particular application to hardware, programming, or how to get the best from your equipment. Check a current issue of *PC Update* for meeting dates, locations, contact information and information about future events.

• Bulletin Board

For members not quite ready for the Internet, Melb PC operates a free, multi-line bulletin board system (BBS). The BBS has a large collection of shareware and freeware programs for members to download. Members also use the BBS to send messages to other members.

• Reference and Software Libraries

Books and magazines are available for members to browse or borrow. An extensive range of shareware and freeware programs are reviewed in *PC Update* and are available on disk from the shareware library.

Whether you are an individual, family or company, one thing is clear. If you want to get the most from your computing experience, a Melb PC membership is a must. □

Melb PC Membership Application/Renewal

Personal details

Membership number (if renewing)

Title Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Ms ☐ Dr ☐ Oth. ☐ Ref: PCU 1098

First name Middle initial

Last name

Postal address

Postcode

Country

Business phone ()

Home phone ()

Job title

Employer

I do ☐ do not ☐ want to receive occasional promotional mail from commercial organisations.

I hereby apply for membership of
Melbourne PC User Group Inc.
A00003293V and agree to abide
by its rules while I am a member.

Signature

Date

Membership details

Type	New	Renewal	Amount
Individual (extra family members at \$10 each)	\$60 <input type="text"/>	\$50 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
Corporate (two representatives, extra representatives at \$60 each)	\$130 <input type="text"/>	\$120 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
Student or Pensioner (see notes)	\$50 <input type="text"/>	\$40 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>

Notes:

- Students must attach a photocopy of student card or letter from educational institution confirming full-time student status.
- Pensioners must attach a photocopy of both sides of their Pension Concession Card.
- Please attach a list if more than one family or corporate member is being nominated with this application.
- Corporate members may change representatives by giving notice in writing to the secretary.

Total \$

How did you learn about Melb PC?
Please complete the appropriate details.

☐ PC Update ☐ Swap Meet ☐ Friend (please give name and number following)

Member No: Name:

☐ Other (give details)

**For membership
application or
renewal, or training
orders, please use
the remittance
and/or credit
card form on the
next page.**

Training order form

Course Title	Starting Date	Amount
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Total:		<input type="text"/>

Top choice shareware

These are some of the most popular volumes in the Melb PC Shareware/ Freeware library. Refer to the regular catalogue updates in *PC Update* for up-to-date listings of other disks—use the lower part of this order form for your choice from those listings.

Shareware/PD Title	Melb No.	Qty	Amount
Shareware Catalogue & New Member Disk	0000		
Graphics Workshop for DOS	8015		
Graphics Workshop for Windows 3.x	8064		
Graphics Workshop for Windows 95	8562		
Growit	8157		
List	1490		
McAfee VirusScan for DOS	8018		
McAfee VirusScan for Windows 3.x (3-disk set)	8897-8899		
McAfee VirusScan for Windows 95 (4-disk set)	8893-8896		
MS-DOS 6.22 Stepup from 6.0 (3-disk set)	8110-8112		
PKZip/PKUnzip	1235		
Real Audio Player for Windows 3.x	8364		
Real Audio Player for Windows 95	8592		
Telix for DOS	8062		
Telix for Windows v1.00 (2-disk set)	8129-8130		
Wolfenstein Fights Street Fighter II	8012		
Melb PC Internet kit (special price) Windows 3.x @\$10 per set (3-disk set)	8711-8713		
Melb PC Internet Setup Master (Win 95/98)	9192		

Postage/Packing is included. Costs: first disk (per order) \$5, second disk \$4, third and subsequent disks \$3 each

Total:

I am ☐ under 15 years of age
☐ under 18 years of age
☐ over 18 years of age

Signature:

Buy your diskettes from Melb PC

Order details

Brand/Size	Cost (Box of 10)	Number of boxes	Value
Memorex 5.25-inch HD (1.2 MB)	\$12.50		
Memorex 3.5-inch HD (1.44 MB)	\$15.00		
Generic preformatted 3.5-inch HD (1.44 MB)	\$5.00		
Postage and packing	\$5 per order:		\$5.00
Enclose a cheque or use the credit card authority below		Total: \$	

Important: Please complete the following for both shareware and diskette orders.

Member details

Name

Membership number:

Delivery details

Delivery Address

State Postcode

Payment Details/Credit Card Authority Forward to Melb PC, PO Box 283, South Melbourne VIC 3205, Australia

I enclose a cheque made payable to Melbourne PC User Group Inc. (A0003293V) for \$ Date

Please debit my: Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ with \$ Card expiry date

Card number

Business hours phone number ()

Card holder's name Signature

Internet access application form

Instructions

- Please **read** the entire form. It may be photocopied.
- Complete **every** field else it might be returned to you. Each field has a purpose, which includes updating our database.
- Enclose a cheque or authorise a charge against your credit card for the requisite amount. Send the form with payment to
Melbourne PC User Group
PO Box 283
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Description of service

- **General.** The Melbourne PC User Group Inc A0003293V (Melb PC) Internet Service network (the Network) is a private telecommunications network owned and operated by Melb PC for its members. It is administered by the Internet Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) as a subscriber-funded service.
- **Function of the Melb PC Network.** The primary function of the Network is to support the free transfer of information to and from Melb PC members, subject to the terms of our Acceptable Use Policy.
- **Standard Service.** SLIP/PPP accounts.
- **Features:**
 - Electronic Mail.
 - We also provide access to other services that are found on the Internet but they are not under our control.
- **Charges.** Annual fee \$140, subject to change from time to time.
- **Limits and Quotas.** Up to 120 minutes access per day (non-cumulative). A bank of modems is made available with a time limit of 30 minutes for the benefit of users who need to check their mail and get off quickly. The Mail quota is 4 MB. Excess mail may be deleted.
- **Access Software.** You will need to acquire and configure suitable software from our Shareware library or other resources.
- **Accounts.** Accounts are issued only to individuals, not company names. Melb PC may reject an application without stating a reason.
- **Support.** Volunteers offer their help in local newsgroups, via our free Bulletin Board Service, or by telephone.
- **Training.** Melb PC offers training courses.
- **Duration.** The subscription to the Network is for one year from the date of acceptance. It automatically terminates upon expiry of membership of Melb PC.
- **Acknowledgment.** Successful applicants will include individuals whose forms are correctly filled out and whose funds have been transferred to our bank account.
- **Net Etiquette.** Melb PC endorses adherence to ("net etiquette" or "netiquette") as deemed by the subcommittee from time to time.

Internet access agreement

Definitions

"**Melb PC**" means The Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated A0003283V or its assignee;
"**the subscriber**" means the Melb PC member making this application;

"**family subscriber**" refers to an existing Melb PC Family Member, or a member of the family residing at the same address who applies for Melb PC Family Membership at this same time, paying the additional \$10 Melb PC membership in addition to the Internet subscription;

"**Internet access**" means access to the World Wide Web, Internet e-mail and any additional Internet facilities Melb PC may offer to its members from time to time, but unless Melb PC agrees otherwise does not include supply or maintenance of the subscriber's equipment, software or telephone line, or technical support;
"**subscription period**" means the period in advance for which the subscriber has paid in full, being one of the periods of subscription offered by Melb PC from time to time;

1. The subscriber asks Melb PC to provide Internet access and Melb PC agrees to do so.
2. This agreement starts when an authorised officer of Melb PC has executed it and Melb PC has received cleared payment for the subscription period.
3. Subject to the early termination clauses of this agreement and to clause 4, this agreement continues until the end of the subscription period.
4. If Melb PC and the subscriber renew this agreement for a further subscription period, this agreement applies to the renewed subscription period unless the parties agree otherwise in writing.
5. The subscriber acknowledges that:
 - a. Continuity and speed of the Internet access depends on a wide range of factors, many of which are beyond the control of Melb PC;
 - b. Melb PC has no control over the accuracy or appropriateness of any information on the Internet;
 - c. Melb PC is not responsible for any material available on the Internet;
 - d. The subscriber's Internet access may be interrupted by equipment failure, the need for routine maintenance, peak demand and so on;
 - e. Melb PC cannot guarantee that the subscriber will be able to secure access at any given time, or that fluctuations in demand by other subscribers will not prevent the subscriber from using the full amount of the maximum daily time allowance on any given day.
6. Subject to matters of the kind referred to in the previous clause and to the subscriber's access limits, Melb PC will use its best endeavours to keep Internet access available continuously and to allow the subscriber to have access for the current daily time allowance from time to time.
7. The subscriber indemnifies Melb PC against any liability, claim, action, suit, demand, loss, cost or expense arising out of or in any way connected with this agreement or Internet access, including any negligence by Melb PC, its servants or agents.
8. The subscriber will pay fees according to Melb PC's standard pricing list from time to time, and a copy of the list certified by an officer of Melb PC is conclusive evidence of the prices applicable at any time.
9. Melb PC may make rules for the use by the subscriber of Internet access, including rules as to online time limits, transmission volume limits, excess usage fees, terms of payment and any other matter at all that Melb PC considers desirable, provided that there shall be no reduction in the access time of the subscriber during any period for which the subscriber has paid in advance unless the service provided by Melb PC has been or is to be enhanced so as to make up for any lost value. Melb PC may alter the rules on not less than fourteen days notice to the subscriber. A copy of the rules certified by an officer of Melb PC is conclusive evidence of the rules applicable at any time. The rules from time to time will apply as if they were set out in full as terms of this agreement.
10. The subscriber must not deliberately or recklessly do anything that damages Melb PC's equipment, software, setup or services.
11. The subscriber must not use Internet access to annoy, harass or harm other Internet users.
12. The subscriber must not use Internet access for any unlawful purpose or in any unlawful manner.
13. The subscriber will keep safe and confidential any access numbers, codes or passwords allotted to them by Melb PC and notify Melb PC without delay of any disclosure of those things.
14. Melb PC may terminate the subscriber's Internet access immediately if the subscriber breaches this agreement or the rules, or fails to promptly pay any money owed to Melb PC, or ceases to be a member of Melb PC.
15. Subject to the previous clause, either party may terminate this agreement by 14 days' notice to the other save that Melb PC must not terminate this agreement while the subscriber has credit for advance payment of fees without refunding a pro rata part of those fees or making alternative Internet access arrangements for the subscriber, and termination by the subscriber does not affect any debt owed to Melb PC at the time of termination.
16. Melb PC may delete without notice any material found on its storage disks that is unauthorised, unlawful, obscene, dangerous, excessive in volume, uncollected for an excessive period, or in an unauthorised place.

17. Melb PC may delete without notice any material found on its storage disks without giving any reason for doing so.
18. Melb PC may make and keep any record it requires for the purpose of this agreement or the rules or for the operation of its services.
19. The Description of Service, Internet Access Agreement, and the services as described on this application form constitute the entire agreement between the parties, and neither of them relies on any term, condition, warranty, collateral contract, representation or promise not set out in those parts of this application forms.
20. Any notice given about any matter concerning this agreement may be given by fax, e-mail or post at the last fax number, e-mail or postal address notified to the sender and is deemed to have been received at the time when it would have arrived in the ordinary course of the relevant type of transmission.
21. The subscriber must not transfer, sell or share Internet access rights, or allow the account to be used by any other person, other than those Melb PC Family Members who are listed on this application and have paid the relevant charges.
22. The user's last name must be displayed in all mail and news messages. The user's first name or initials may be displayed as desired.
23. Commercial traffic, in the form of private messages and advertisements in newsgroups designated for that purpose, is permitted within the bounds of net etiquette.
24. The *Organization*: field in private electronic mail or public newsgroup article headers must always be *Melbourne PC User Group, Australia*, the name of the service provider. Any other organisation or business name is permitted only in the four-line (maximum) "signature" text that is optionally inserted at the end of the message or article.
25. Connection of any networking system or device that permits multiple users to share one account simultaneously is not permitted.
26. The *From*: field used in mail and news messages must be the Melb PC assigned user name, e.g. *jjones@melbpc.org.au* not the address where a reply is sought, e.g. *jjones@pobox.com.au*. Such an arrangement should be managed by use of the *Reply-To* field.
27. Melb PC may assign its rights and obligations under this agreement to an Internet access provider that is of equal standard to Melb PC, and after notice of assignment is given to the subscriber, this agreement shall have operation as if it had been entered into between the assignee and the subscriber and Melb PC's rights (except for its right to recover any money owed to it immediately before the assignment) and obligations under this agreement shall be at an end.
28. The parties submit to the law of Victoria, Australia in relation to any the interpretation of this agreement, or any dispute arising out of it. ☐

Service required and payment

Primary Subscription	\$ 140.00
Additional Family Subscribers	
..... @ \$5.00 each	\$
Melb PC Internet Kit software	
Windows 3.x version @ \$10.00	\$
Melb PC Win 95/98 setup @ \$5.00	\$
Total	\$

Tick ☒

☐ Cheque for above total is enclosed.

or

☐ Debit my card with \$

☐ Bankcard / ☐ MasterCard / ☐ Visa

Expires:/...../.....

Number:

Name on Card:

Signature:

Applicant details

First Name:

Last Name:

Membership Number:

Postal Address:

Postcode:

Telephone (day): (.....)

Telephone (evening): (.....)

Job Title:

Employer:

Tick ☒

My age is: ☐ 18 or above. ☐ Below 18.

I hereby apply for the Internet service described on this and the previous page

Signature:

Additional Family Members who will share the one account/user name:

Name

Signature

Name

Signature

Name

Signature

Applicant(s) to complete (CAPITALS, please)

Parent/guardian to complete

(If any of the applicants is below the age of 18) I am the parent/guardian of an applicant. I am aware of the nature of information available through the Internet and support this application.

Name:

Telephone (day) (.....)

Signature:

User name

List below the user ("login") names you would like, in order of preference, up to eight lowercase characters and/or numerals. Write very clearly, to avoid our confusing certain letters. User names are expressed in lowercase letters and numbers and must represent your real name in some recognisable way, e.g. "John J. Jones" might request user names such as "john", "johnj", "jjones", etc.

Any user name that is already allocated or deemed unsuitable in the opinion of the system administrators will not be allocated. Preferred full name (e.g. *John J Jones* or *Jones Family*), to be recorded on the system.

Previous name (if to be changed):

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Choice 1:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Choice 2:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Choice 3:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Choice 4:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Choice 5:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Office use only

☒ Tick as applicable:

☐ Form and fee correct

☐ Parent of underage applicant contacted (date)/...../199...

☐ Membership database checked and updated

☐ Incomplete form returned to sender (date)/...../199...

☐ Acknowledgment returned to sender (date)/...../199...

Initials of office staff:



If you are a member or advertiser offering a discount on goods or services to Melb PC members, on production of their membership cards, please contact the office to register your offer, which will then be listed in future issues of PC Update.

Discounts for members

Computer service, parts, support, etc

Austral Data Processing Services

Forest Hill
Ph: 9894 0199
Fax: 9894 7688
20%—(not hardware) on consultancy, data backup/storage, maintenance.

Batterymaster

Murrumbene
Ph: 9563 8460
Fax: 9579 4844
15%—batteries for laptop computers.

Bayside PC Services

Mentone
Ph: 9585 1645
10%—selected services.

Calculator King

St Kilda Road
Ph: 9866 8753
Fax: 9820 9652
10%—all calculators (inc. scientific/financial and specialty). Personal Organisers: Sharp, Casio, HP, Psion.

Compatible Toner and Ink

North Carlton
Ph: 9388 9744
Fax: 9388 9755
15%—Re-manufactured laser printer cartridges and inkjets.

Greensborough Computers

Greensborough
Ph: 9434 6166
Fax: 9434 6033
20%—(labour only) on repairs and upgrades for individual Melb PC Members. 5% on some models of new PC Systems (please enquire).

Metropolis Corp. Pty Ltd

Ferntree Gully
Ph: 9752 4242
Fax: 9752 3777
10%—computer systems (incl. free 24-hour software/technical support.) \$35 per hour for maintenance/support

Modem SuperStore

Box Hill
Ph: 9899 4744
Fax: 9897 3939
5%—Melb PC Member's special discount.

Moon-Ess Computers

Essendon
Ph: 9326 2776
Fax: 9326 2797
10%—service and repairs, new & secondhand parts & systems.

Mountain Visions

Pty Ltd
Sunshine North
Ph/Fax: 9310 1063
10%—on labour only—customised software, hardware & software consulting, maintenance, on-site training.

Nucleus Computer Services Pty Ltd

Carnegie
Ph: 9569 1388
Fax: 9569 1540
10%—on all services on equipment.

PCLC Computers

Heathmont
Ph/Fax: 9870 3288
20%—labour on upgrades, 5% on some new systems.

Pollock Computer & Technical Services

Hampton
Ph: 9533 5002
Fax: 9598 3186
20%—Personal PC tuition & problem solution.

The Power of 2, Software and Marketing

Pakenham
Ph: 5940 2020 BH & AH
10%—registered copies of Brothers Keeper genealogy software. Local support, manuals & supply of updates. \$75 plus postage.

Stone Computer Installations

Ph: 9315 0095
Mob: 0412 099 538
25%—Hardware/software installation, internet set up and problem solutions.

Summit Computers

Lilydale
Ph: 9739 6269
Fax: 9735 0503
20%—on labour (service, networks, etc), 6%—hardware & software.

Books, magazines, software, etc

Advanced Computer Products

St. Albans
Ph: 9364 1886
Fax: 9367 3639
20%—all computer books & software.

Capricorn Programming Services

Frankston
Ph: 9775 5377
Fax: 9774 5434
10%—on Scanlab Vol.1 Antivirus & virus education kit.

Collins Booksellers

(Technical and Academic Centre)
Melbourne
Ph: 9654 3144
10%—computer books.

Computer Book Company

Mt Evelyn
Ph: 9737 0411
Fax: 9737 0433
20%—all computer books, mail order.

Cybec Pty Ltd

Glen Iris
Ph: 9825 5600
Fax: 9884 0844
E-mail: info@vet.com.au
10%—Vet Anti-Virus Software.

Dymocks, Shop 2

Melbourne
Ph: 9663 1344
Fax: 9663 1581
10%—computer books, not on magazines.

Dymocks

Brighton
Ph: 9592 1911
Fax: 9592 1611
10%—computer books.

Dymocks

Westfield Shopping Town,
Doncaster
Ph: 9848 7209
Fax: 9848 7307
10%—computer books.

Dymocks

Frankston
Ph: 9770 0300
Fax: 9770 0400
10%—computer books.

Dymocks

Fountain Gate
Ph: 9796 6459
Fax: 9796 6509
10%—computer books.

Dymocks

Pran Central, Prahran
Ph: 9510 2100
Fax: 9519 2520
10%—computer books.

Trevor Gibbs

Melton
Ph: 9743 8917
15%—books: "Windows Whys" and "Easy DOS It", \$16.95 ea, \$32 for both. Incl diskettes.

ITS Information Technology Systems

Greenvale
Ph/Fax: 9333 2197
20%—computer books, Educational Software.

Mace Booksellers and Stationers

Mount Waverley
Ph: 9807 1899
10%—computer books.

McGills Authorised Newsagency

Melbourne
Ph: 9602 5566
10%—computer books.

Polyester Books

Fitzroy
Ph: 9419 5223
Fax: 9419 5451
10%—on all fiction, science, computer & non-fiction titles, magazines, comics & T-shirts.

RMIT Bookshop

Melbourne
Ph: 9663 5855
Fax: 9663 7528
10%—all books.

Technical Book and Magazine Company

Melbourne
Ph: 9663 3951
10%—computer books.

The Worsley Press

Hastings
FreeCall: 1800 622 805
Ph/Fax: 5979 1112
E-mail: info@worsleypress.com
10%—& free postage.

Other services

Adept Accounting and Taxation

Mill Park
Ph: 9436 7604
10%—on all taxation return preparation & business accounting services.

Blinds of Best Value

Oakleigh South
Ph: 9562 7788
Fax: 9562 7757
15%—top quality vertical, holland, venetian, timber venetian blinds and shutters, and all types of awnings.

EasyRSVP

Werribee
Ph: 015 541 253
Fax: 9742 4566
http://easysvp.com
10%—on all corporate and wedding RSVP forms.

Heal Your Life Astrology

Marysville
Ph: 5963 3626
Fax: 5963 3737
10%—on all birthchart consultations

Mediware Applications

Camberwell
Ph: 9889 9234
Fax: 9889 9236
5%—(purchase), 10% on training and installation of Dental, Medical (including MedClaims) & Allied Professional Patient Management & billing software.

Min Thong Lee

c/- AP Insurance Brokers
Queen St, Melbourne
Ph: 9602 1869
Fax: 9602 1876
5%—life insurance, loans, home & contents, motor, commercial.

Mike McKeon Music

Dingley Village
Ph: 9551 7363
5%—on our Octet or 10% on a 14 pce. Big Band and two vocalists. Discount off Musicians' Award rates. For dinner dances, weddings, balls & special events.

Newtech R&D

Kilsyth
Ph/fax: 9723 7535
10%—on electronics consumer product design & Japanese translation.

Sit Right Chairs Pty Ltd

Coburg
Ph: 9354 2612
Fax: 9354 2795
10%—off range of office and ergonomic chairs.

Stewart Smith

Australian Commercial Credit
Licenced Insurance Brokers
Ph: 9816 3264
Fax: 9816 3270
25%—off normal costs. Leasing Equipment & cars. Home/commercial mortgage loans.

Tortoise Head Guest House

French Island
Ph: 5980 1234
Fax: 5980 1222
10%—on accommodation, fully catered, adjacent bay.

Quarter Deck B&B

San Remo
Ph: 5678 5485
Mob: 018 550 235
E-mail: rosco@melbpc.org.au
20%—on B&B stays of two nights or more. Great views and close to many tourist attractions.

James Small, Solicitor

North Balwyn
Ph: 9830 0233
Fax: 9830 0222
20%—on standard conveyancing and will preparation fees (exc. govt. charges and disbursements).

Ultimate Business Service Opportunities

Strathmore
Ph: 9483 4417
Fax: 9374 2919
25%—on travel cards that allow 50% off world-wide hotels. 12 month g'tee.

Yodgee's of Prahran Leather and Travel Goods

Prahran
Ph: 9510 2413
Fax: 9510 2916
10%—computer briefcases and travel bags, R.M. Williams boots and clothing, Dr Martens footwear.

Special interest group meetings

Access (Database)

Ray Watson
raywatson_assist@onaustralia.com.au
(03) 9576 8520 BH & AH
2nd Monday
6.30 – 8.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Assembly & Other Languages

Felix Hofmann
felix@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9523 5400 AH
1st Thursday
7.00 – 10.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Ballarat

Ken Smith
kensmith@giant.bnc.com.au
(03) 5332 7851 BH & AH
1st Thursday
7.30 – 9.45 pm
(except school holidays)
Ballarat & Clarendon College
614 Mair St, Ballarat
VicRoads map 254 L12

Bendigo

Russ Collins
(03) 5439 3708 BH & AH
Joe Henry
joehenry@melbpc.org.au
2nd Wednesday
7.30 – 10.00 pm
Girton Grammar School
105 Mackenzie St, Bendigo
(Vine Street entrance, then follow the signs)
VicRoads map 282 K14

C/C++

This SIG has closed.

Clarion

Chris Livingstone
chrisliv@ozemail.com.au
(03) 9431 1897 BH & AH
4th Wednesday
7.00 – 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Communications

Philip Lew
phil@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9822 2998 BH
(brief calls please)
2nd Wednesday
7.00 – 9.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Daytime

Don Buchanan
donbucha@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9509 7119 BH & AH
Graeme Minto
gm@alphalink.com.au
(03) 9459 3986 BH & AH
2nd Thursday
10.00 am – 12 noon
Melb PC SIG Room

East

Keith Beresford
eastsig@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9733 5044 AH
(03) 9736 2515 BH
Margaret Brown
(03) 9874 5778
2nd Tuesday
7.30 – 10.00 pm
Multinet Theatre
200 Rooks Rd, Vermont
Melway map 62 H2

East Workshop

Aldo Pitre
eastsig@melbpc.org.au
Ken Gubbins
(03) 9898 5478 Ph/Fax
Sunday following the East SIG meeting,
10.30 am – 2.30 pm
Multinet Theatre
200 Rooks Rd, Vermont
Melway map 62 H2

Graphics

Yahya Abdal-Aziz
yahya@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9562 1023 AH
(brief calls please)
This SIG is about to change date and venue. Please contact Yahya for details.

Hardware

Felix Hofmann
felix@melbpc.org.au
Bill Kessler
wok@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9523 5400
3rd Wednesday
7.00 – 11.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

LUBE

Thom Lyons
tomlyons@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9525 9793 BH & AH
3rd Thursday
7.00 – 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Music

Yahya Abdal-Aziz
yahya@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9562 1023 AH
(brief calls please)
Eric Best
ebest@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9376 1984 AH
2nd Thursday
7.30 – 9.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

New Users, Central

Graham Paul
gp@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9417 5315 AH
3rd Monday
7.00 – 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

New Users, East

Doug Brooke
dab@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9822 3458 BH & AH
2nd Tuesday
7.30 – 10.00 pm
(except January)
St Mark's Anglican Church,
Cnr Canterbury & Burke
Rds, Camberwell
Melway map 45 J10

OS/2

John Angelico
talldad@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9544 8792 BH & AH
4th Tuesday
6.30 – 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Programming

Ross Hall
(03) 5428 6470 AH
(03) 9699 4000 BH
Andrew Callaway
acal@ozemail.com.au
(03) 9619 4067 BH
2nd Tuesday,
7.30 – 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Quicken

Viv Martin
martinv@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9583 5372 BH & AH
4th Thursday
7.00 – 9.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Retired & Interested Persons

Ken Thomas
(03) 9884 5309 AH
Noel Peters
ripsig@melbpc.org.au
4th (not last) Friday
10.00 am – 12 noon
Lutheran Church,
25 Cypress Ave,
Glen Waverley
Melway map 62 A9

Video Editing (Linear)

Albert Vanzet
vanzet@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9439 1768 BH & AH
4th Monday
7.00 – 9.30 pm
45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn
Melway map 46 E8

Video Editing (Non-linear)

Lawrie Weston
westonl@diamondc.net.au
(03) 9742 3738
1st Tuesday
(including Cup day)
7.30 – 10.00 pm
Melb PC SIG room

Warragul

Gordon Ross
(03) 5623 5434 AH
1st Friday
7.30 – 10.00 pm
Warragul Education Centre
Smith St, Warragul
VicRoads map 337 Q8

Western Suburbs

Robert Mead
meadr@netstra.com.au
(03) 9312 5427 AH
4th Tuesday
7.00 – 9.00 pm
Sunshine Squash Centre,
cnr Kent and Stewart Sts,
Sunshine
Melway map 41 B2

Windows

Lynn Pollock
lynn@melbpc.org.au
(03) 9598 3186 AH
(03) 9533 5002 BH
1st Monday
7.00 – 9.30 pm
Melb PC SIG Room

Updates and corrections

Please send to
Joe Henry
SIG Co-ordinator:
joehenry@melbpc.org.au
or via the office.

SIG meeting reports

ALT

David Webster had an interesting problem with a file that contained multiple end-of-file characters and could not be read by Windows 95.

To solve the problem David wrote an assembler program that would read the file and ignore all end-of-file characters. To prevent the program terminating at the first end-of-file character, David defined the file as a binary file, so that the assembler code would not act upon the end-of-file characters.

Roger Wragg then demonstrated Winscope, a sound simulation program that displays waves on an PC-emulated oscilloscope.

Several other programs dealing with sounds and their wave forms were also demonstrated. One worthy of mention is Cool Edit, which is available in a Light version at US\$25 whilst the Pro version is US\$50.

We then watched Fourier transformations of the actual speech transmitted during the 1969 Apollo lunar landing.

Ken Holmes then demonstrated his latest achievement Cellular Automata a program written in C++.

The program demonstrated the behaviour of bugs feeding, breeding

and competing with each other in a limited area, as well as their need to expand into adjoining areas and subsequent competition with inhabitants of those areas.

Felix Hofmann demonstrated a JavaScript that automatically feeds a search request to multiple search engines.

Examination of the HTML file (including a JavaScript) demonstrated some similarities between C++ and JavaScript.

Felix then gave a detailed explanation of the HTML example and how embedded JavaScript and radio buttons had been used to implement defaults and choices.

We then discussed the benefits of JavaScripts and how they can be used.

The discussion then moved to how to get your HTML page noticed by a search engine so that your site is prominently displayed (within the first 20 hits). Each search engine has its own criteria for indexing pages and search engines change indexing criteria from time to time.

There is an official Netscape JavaScript site where you can download documents as either PDF or zipped HTML files. The JavaScript Guide and JavaScript Manual should be downloaded

for reference. Both Netscape 4.05 and 4.06 include a JavaScript debugger.

Apparently the October 98 edition of Australian Personal Computer magazine will include a series of articles on JavaScripts, Tutorials, Methods, Events, Objects and Examples, and it is proposed that our October SIG meeting be based on this material.

Daytime

» Don Buchanan

August

Morris Tobias, Vice-President of Melb PC, was our presenter for our August meeting. Co-convenor Graeme Minto was in charge of proceedings.

Morris displayed some of the hardware he brought back from his latest overseas trips.

We saw

- Samples of the quality picture and sound from the latest DVD players and double-sided DVD disks (soon to be available in Australia)
- A notebook add-on with 3.2 GB (or more) capacity, which is removable/exchangeable between your notebook and desktop computers
- PowerQuest's Drive Image v2.0, the

SIG and other meeting dates

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Note: These (±) meet at Melb PC			1 Assembly & Other Languages ± Ballarat	2 Warragul	3	4
5 Windows ±	6 Video Editing (non-linear) ±	7 Monthly meeting	8 Daytime ± Music ±	9	10	11
12 Access (Database) ±	13 Programming ± East New Users, East	14 Communications ± Bendigo	15 LUBe ±	16	17	18 East Workshop
19 New Users, Central ± Graphics	20 Committee ±	21 Hardware ±	22 Quicken ±	23 Retired & Interested Persons	24	25
26 Video Editing (Linear)	27 OS/2 ± Western Suburbs	28 Clarion ±	29	30	31	

October

fastest way to backup a complete hard drive partition to another disk

- PowerQuest's PartitionMagic, which you can use to create and resize hard drive partitions

Some lucky attendees received up-to-date give-aways supplied by Morris Tobias.

Then further good fortune fell upon us when Stan Johnstone walked in bearing samples of heavily discounted CyberMedia products. All in all, a feeling of Christmas in August!

September

By the time you read this, Tom Coleman will have expanded our knowledge of DOS commands, with correct syntax, so that we might self-administer some first aid in whatever Windows program we use.

October

We propose to spend the morning on the subject of modems. Come along and pick up a few pointers.

East

» Margaret Brown

Specialist inkjet papers

At a recent meeting Jack Retman of OfficeNet created a great deal of interest when he discussed refilling inkjet cartridges. We were pleased to welcome him back to update some changes in this field and to tell us about specialist papers and new products.

Jack provided printed samples of several coated papers and we compared the performance differences. It became obvious that the correct choice of paper is critical for optimum results. Some of the newer products designed for inkjet printers included iron-on transfers, business and greeting cards and labels.

Also of interest were

- Adhesive, silver and static cling film
- Canvas textured paper to suggest a hand painted image
- Shrink film to be oven baked then cut to size
- Magnetic backed papers for refrigerator magnets
- Luminous and designer papers.

Many of these products are ideal to use for short run business advertising and promotion projects.

Jack assured us that in the next couple

of years we can expect to see water-proof, colour-fast and UV-resistant printing products available for the desktop market.

Some advice for laser printer users — never use coated paper, the printer probably will not be damaged but the output will be quite useless.

PartitionMagic

Frank Conner of Seville Computer Services feels that partitioning offers many advantages and used this application to show how simply it can be done.

He also showed how another PowerQuest product, DriveImage, can assist with backups, and system recovery and simplify upgrades. Frank demonstrated just how quickly a new hard drive can be set up. In ideal conditions it should take less than a minute to create a self-booting drive with full DOS utility suite, 8 MB of data, CD-ROM player and ATAPI driver.

George Skarbek's contribution to the meeting is always appreciated but in July he really saved the day. On his way to the meeting a frantic mobile phone call and a quick U-turn sent him all the way back to the city to collect the projector. George arrived just in time to present Tips and Tricks and his spreadsheet share portfolio program. Our thanks to you, George, for averting a major disaster.

OS/2

» John Angelico

Our August meeting was held as scheduled, but was not a Lotus night as originally planned. Our first Lotus night has been re-scheduled for the September meeting. About 20 people were present to hear about Netscape, AVI files and separate maintenance partitions.

Netscape Communicator

Terry Kemp set up his machine to demonstrate the second beta of Netscape Communicator 4.04 for OS/2 while we opened with a report on our highly successful OS/2 technical support day.

Terry then gave us a good demonstration of the various features of Netscape Communicator: Mail, Page Composer, Browser and Collabra Groupware. Despite being a "beta" the program behaved itself, and it certainly looked quite polished. By the time you read

this, the program file plus the Plug-Ins file should be on the BBS. Beware, however, since they are about 7 MB and 2.6 MB respectively.

AVI files

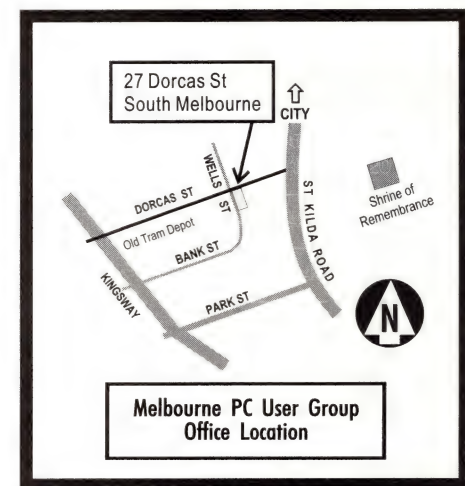
After a break, we resumed with a look at a shareware add-in for OS/2 Multimedia to play Windows AVI files. Without having to re-boot, Terry ran the selective install to load the extension and then proceeded to select AVI files from a CD, which happily ran without a problem. The explanation for the difference between OS/2 and Windows AVI files is that the Windows versions use a modified version of the AVI "standard format" which the shareware add-in recognises.

SIG members on the e-mailing list will receive a copy of the file APCODEC6.ZIP shortly and it will be uploaded to the BBS (probably already happened by the time you read this in *PC Update*). It is shareware, so we encourage you to test it and if you keep using it, to register at about \$US25. Full details will be in the ZIP file.

Maintenance partitions

The last segment of the night was a brief but clear explanation of the need for a separate, bootable partition with a minimal setup of OS/2, to enable you to carry out service or repair on other partitions.

Demonstrating the IBM Employee Written Software product "BootOS2," we showed how easy it was to set up a small partition (3 to 9 MB) containing just enough OS/2 to run utilities like PartitionMagic, FDisk, CheckDisk and the like on your production OS/2 partition.



‡ Many SIGs meet at Melb PC's premises, at 27 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne.

Once again, BootOS2 will be found on the BBS before too long as BTOS2915.ZIP.

Our October is tentatively scheduled to be a Lotus night on e-Suite Web tools. More details later.

Quicken

» *Bob Mayston*

Our double feature presentation of the new Quicken v7 and using Quicken to track investments, proved irresistible to 52 members, who arrived for the August meeting. This is the first time we have had a full house and the need for extra seating.

A short question time was mainly devoted to online banking services. These are available at a price from CBA and ANZ banks, but expect more news on this subject.

The first workshop looked at a beta version of the soon to be released Quicken v7. It had already been trialled by three members, two with Windows 95 and one with Windows 3.1. Of the Windows 95 trials, one member had no problems. The other had major problems with loading, which may have been caused by an open Taskbar in the Windows Office Suite. It is not only necessary to close programs when loading, but also to close the Office Taskbar. The Windows 3.1 trial loaded correctly but gave a General Protection Fault (GPF) when converting old (v5) Quicken data to the new format. However, when the same data was reloaded the problem disappeared. On exiting the program a GPF always appeared. This was traced to the converted data having links to QuickInvoice. Data without such links converted and behaved correctly.

All testers agreed the new version is the slowest yet. In short, unless you have a fast Pentium 200 or better, think twice about upgrading. Signs of the times also in the recommended screen display of SVGA and small fonts. If you only have a 14-inch monitor, you may need to squint or update your glasses.

On the positive side v7 has major improvements in investment tracking, including a bevy of new options, such as online updating of share prices. In the standard version tested there are only minor changes to the normal accounts section. In the business version we are promised job tracking and an integrated invoice module to replace the aged and kludgy

QuickInvoice. This and several other features bring Quicken closer to QuickBooks in functionality.

The next workshop looked at using Quicken v7 beta to track investments. Graham Comitti showed us how he had set up Quicken to track investments, starting with the creation of a new file. He advised us to set up a separate account for each broker, if you use multiple brokers. He also showed us the advantage of entering the complete share history, particularly when it comes calculating Capital Gains Tax. Graham also designed his categories to make it easy to transport the information to Tax Pack at tax time.

Viv Martin then showed us another variation, his setup was designed to supply reports, such as return on investment and other data required to show the performance of your portfolio. Rather than use categories suggested by Quicken, Viv preferred to set up his own. Both approaches tracked investments correctly but their reports had different emphasises. It was generally agreed that v7 offers better options than former versions, for investment management.

To end on a lighter note

This was the second month in succession in which a member (not the same one!) left her handbag behind after the meeting. There is speculation that this may be due to some mysterious undocumented feature associated with Quicken.

To find out more, be at our September meeting. As always, visitors are most welcome. The topic for the workshop will be budgets and budgeting.

Video Editing (Non-linear)

» *Lawrie Weston*

The group, despite some confusion, manages to meet on the first Tuesday of each month, in Melb PC's large SIG room, at 7.30 pm.

Our members use a variety of editing programs and hardware configurations but ultimately all use the basic principle of using a computer to "grab" video footage, manipulate the data, and then convert the data back to a video signal. This is then sent by the computer to a VCR for playback.

Lately, the Linear Video Editing SIG has been looking at Studio 400, a linear

editor which tends to bring the two computer video editing systems closer together, as far as the final result is concerned.

In October, we will be looking at budget entry into both linear and non-linear computer video editing systems.

The main topic for the night will be a look at the Iomega Buz which—with a retail price of around \$500—is a cheap way into non-linear editing.

After a supper break we will have a short demo of Studio 400 for a comparison of the similarities and differences between the two forms of editing.

Don't expect a full run down on both systems on the one night. We have two separate SIGs, one for each method, and the two methods use different techniques.

In November we will be looking at special effects in non-linear editing. Because in non-linear editing, the video footage has been converted to data, we have many video tracks, and are able to apply special effects such as picture-in-picture, "blue screen" (Superman flying over Metropolis), image warping, A-B roll transitions etc.

In December we will have a Christmas "break up", details are yet to be decided.

Video Editing (Linear)

» *Albert Vanzet*

Despite the seasonal exodus of several of our members to faraway places, our SIG venue was filled with more than 50 video editors eager to see VideoDirector 400 in action. Some members had already received their copy of this exiting new video-editing program; some others had downloaded the upgrade from Studio 200 to 400, but most were still waiting. Unfortunately the upgrades are slow coming, due to some delays of shipments to the distributor.

In the meantime we all had the opportunity to see another demonstration of some major aspects of the program.

Those members who have Studio 400 up and running already showed us some of their edited videos. We enjoyed a parade down the Champs Elysees in Paris. Another video showed how a member had to break into his own home because he had lost his keys. An eleven-second video—played from a floppy disk—proved that there is more than one way to skin a cat.

Although Don Watson-Brown, our resident technical wizard, was able to answer most of the questions, there were still some problems that needed further investigation.

In video editing the saying that quality goes before quantity is so very true. While there are still so many aspects about Studio 400 to be demonstrated and discussed, we plan to continue to devote much of our future meetings to this program.

Pinnacle Systems Inc, the manufacturers of Studio 400, has recently started a new Web forum on the Internet, dedicated to this program.

Those who have access to the Internet can read messages as guests or become listed users of the forum. Listing allows you to put your own Studio 400 problems to fellow "board members". Answers and comments may come from those who have had similar experiences or direct from Pinnacle's technical staff.

The address of this forum is webboard.pinnaclesys.com/~2/.

It is reassuring to see Pinnacle monitoring the newsgroups, and when necessary updating Studio 400 with new versions.

Earlier in the evening Robert Dorin touched on a subject that is important to those who wish to send a video to friends or relatives overseas. He pointed out the vast difference between our Australian PAL system and that of the American NTSC and even the incompatibility with PAL SECAM. As the cost of having PAL videos converted professionally to other video systems is so high, it pays to do some dramatic editing to reduce the length of those video productions.

We remind our members that at our September meeting we will have our first "Sell Night" (for the lack of a better name for this new segment).

Members are invited to bring to the meeting any video or video-editing equipment or accessories that they no longer require and price them for sale. With so many changes and new products it is very likely that most of us have these surplus items cluttering our drawers and cupboards. This could just be the opportunity for other members to pick up a looked-for item.

Windows

» Bob Mayston

Another excellent night started as usual, with Lynn leading question time, in which the following problems were discussed

- A Netcomm E90 modem that works well on analogue but fails to connect on V90 digital—suggested checking a known V90 digital provider like Big Pond and then contacting Netcomm
- A ZIP drive that, when installed, denied access to the floppy drive—suggested re-name WIN.COM then re-running setup to re-establish a correct WIN.COM file
- A Windows 95B installation that starts up with a project1 message—suggested look in the start, WIN.INI, or load areas and delete the reference
- Problems with Microsoft Exchange and WinFax.

The first workshop covered backup techniques. Suggested you organize your data files and direct them to a series of folders, preferably on one drive. Many programs if left to their own devices will dump their backup files in amongst the program files (in the same directory). That makes them hard to recognise. If you keep them in a series of folders just for backup files, you can write a batch file using XCOPY/S to copy these folders, files and subdirectories to removable media for safekeeping. As a further enhancement put a shortcut to the batch file on your desktop for easy access.

The tips sheet was distributed and discussed. Included were tips on modem connections, IRQ connections, backups and Outlook Express.

After the break John Swale gave a most impressive demonstration of backup techniques using a writeable CD. After first explaining the reason behind his choice of equipment and setup, he led us through the actual process of writing a large collection of files to a CD.

The CD writer comes with options as to which methods you may use, including a wizard to help automate the process but John generally prefers direct control. Some general good housekeeping rules need to be observed should you want to avoid making an unwanted collection of drink coasters (dud CDs).

First turn off all screen savers, TSR and system tray items. In short turn off anything that might access the CPU and disturb the flow of data to the CD writer, even for a second. Failure to do so will produce another drink coaster.

The next step is to select the collection of files to be backed up and drag and drop them on to a dedicated folder for backup. Defrag the files before you back them up, so you will have contiguous files in your backup.

John also recommended when buying a CD writer you get one with at least 1 MB, preferably 2 MB, to help avoid buffer underruns.

And he said that although write speeds can vary with machine, in the interests of a good copy you should use the slower single write speed unless you have the latest technology.

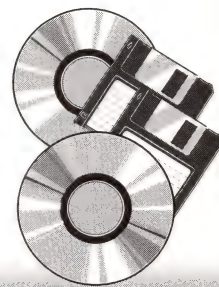
If you do not fill a CD on the first write it is possible to go back for additional copying. However, because this requires rewriting the index, it will mean some lost or wasted space on the disc. You should also be aware that if you use this method, you may not be able to read the disc on another machine. If you want to be able to do this, you will need to take an additional step and end the recording by writing a final segment to the disk.

Also, you need to be careful when labelling the CD. Ball point pens can ruin the data surface and make the disc useless. You should use special felt tip pens, since some felt tipped pens use a solvent that can damage the surface of the CD.

Finally John told us that we would find a range of disk brands, with prices as low as \$2-3 per disc and high as \$60 per disc, and that like other disk systems it is first necessary to format the CD.

A lively contribution came from the six other members who have this new technology. So writeable CD technology will be the topic of a future meeting. John will also attend our next meeting, to complete his presentation on backing up, with a demonstration of PartitionMagic's "Drive Image" which you can use to make backup copies of complete hard drives.

Come along to the next meeting to see and hear the rest of the story. Visitors as always most welcome. □



Shareware/Freeware library update

Updates

Melb 2589

Timo Salmi's Batch File Collection v5.6

This disk contains Professor Timo Salmi's (University of Vaasa, Finland) collection of over 70 batch files and tips for performing many of the small but necessary tasks in a batch environment. Some of these include string searching, working with paths and directories, testing filenames, running programs once per week, changing screen colours and converting archive formats. These batch files, and the other information supplied, are for use with MS-DOS and the COMMAND.COM interpreter. Some of the tricks may not work properly on a DR-DOS system or with the 4DOS command interpreter due to subtle incompatibilities with the vanilla MS-DOS. There may be some subtle differences with the Windows 95 MS-DOS box ("MS-DOS 7.0") also. This version includes many extra tips and tricks. Existing files have undergone extensive editing with further explanations and alternative solutions added. Regn not required for private use.

Melb 2601

HyperCam v1.31.01

HyperCam captures the action from your Windows 95 or NT screen, including cursor movements and sound, and saves it to an AVI (Audio-Video Interleaved) movie file. Sound from your system microphone is also recorded. HyperCam can capture up to 10 frames per second of 640x480 pictures, in 8-bit colour mode (256 colours) on a Pentium 133. You may capture more if your capture area is smaller, or you have a faster machine. In 16-bit colour mode you can capture about 5 fps of 320x240 frames on the same machine. MS Video does not provide a suitable compressor for 4-bit graphics, so the frames are written uncompressed. This is also slow and produces large AVI files. HyperCam has a single frame shot hot key, that operates in "pause" mode. It is perfect for demonstrations, presentations and tutorials. This version changes the visual feedback layouts, with minor bug corrections included. It requires Windows 95 or later and a VGA or better graphics card and monitor. Regn US\$30.

Melb 8216

McAfee VShield v3.2.0

This disk contains the McAfee anti-virus TSR program VSHIELD. It is a memory-resident detection program that will auto-load above 1 MB. Note that VShield can only detect viruses. You will need to use VirusScan for DOS to remove a virus from your system. VShield installs itself in memory and stays resident in order to monitor your system for viral activity. If an infected program is executed or if an infected boot sector is accessed, VShield will display a warning that a virus is present. Documentation is supplied on disk. **Remember to write-protect this floppy disk before use.** This version now provides the exceptional virus detection rates and fast scanning performance of the 3.x engine. It requires an IBM-compatible computer with DOS 3.0 or later and 110 KB of RAM. Regn US\$65.

Melb 8306

LView Pro for Windows 95 v2.0

LView Pro is an image file editor for Microsoft Windows 95 and Windows NT. It loads and saves image files in JPEG, JFIF, GIF 87a/89a, TIFF, Truevision Targa, Windows and OS/2 BMP, PCX, PBM, PGM and PPM formats. This update includes the ability to create image catalogs, multiple openings of the same file, and also includes new filters and image enhancement tools. LView Pro requires an 80386 or faster processor, a VGA or better graphics card (true colour SVGA is recommended) and monitor, and a mouse. LView Pro also requires Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0 or later. Regn US\$40.

Melb 8454

PolyView v3.03

PolyView is a shareware graphics viewer, file converter, and printing utility for Windows 95 and Windows NT. It supports the majority of the popular image formats available on Windows and Unix systems. Image resolution may be changed, and then smoothed. Slide shows can be created, and the timing of images during the slide shows can be manually configured for each slide. GIF files can be exported. PNG files can be exported also, but only in the registered version. Files can be saved in either 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 24, 32 or 64-bit. Multiple files can be open at once, so all pictures you wish to use in your slide show can be opened at once in this way. This new release includes support for the Intel MMX chipset, support for Seattle Film Works, Sony Digital Camera and Symantec WinFax image file formats, and corrected some minor issues with the programs interaction with the Windows 95 and 98 operating system. PolyView requires Windows 95, Windows NT 4.0 or later. Regn US\$25.

Melb 8842 ACDSee 32 v2.3 (Win 95)

ACDSee 32 is the 32-bit (Windows 95/NT) version of ACDSee, one of the most popular image viewers for Windows 3.x. It is basically two tools in one. As an image viewer, ACDSee stands unsurpassed in its ability to quickly decode and display images. High quality output is another advantage of ACDSee, with single and double-pass dithering algorithms that enable you to make optimal use of your display's capabilities. You can scroll, zoom, or use any other function while ACDSee is decoding. This means that you'll spend less time waiting and more time doing. As an image browser, ACDSee is the best choice for exploring your file system for images of interest. A high speed preview feature lets you quickly and easily take a peek at images without interrupting or slowing down your exploration. A unique feature included in ACDSee is the shortcut pane, a list of shortcuts to frequently accessed folders that helps you to quickly move and copy files, or browse the folders themselves. This update allows you to view images directly from a digital camera (such as the Kodak DC210 camera) connected to your computer. It requires either Windows 95/98 or Windows NT4.0 or later, an 80486 or faster processor, 8 MB of RAM, a mouse and a VGA or better video card and monitor. Regn US\$30.

Melb 8897-8899 McAfee VirusScan for Windows 3.1x v3.1.9 (3-disk set)

These disks contain the McAfee anti-virus set of detection and disinfection programs for Windows 3.X. The programs will need to be installed prior to use. **Remember to write-protect these floppy disks before use.** The scanning program has been designed to check for pre-existing infections of known and unknown viruses on both stand-alone and networked PCs, and network file servers. Documentation is supplied on disk. VirusScan's powerful new user interface provides advanced scan configuration settings and a complete Tools menu. The VirusScan Console facilitates easy and efficient scheduling and configuring of scan tasks. An icon has been provided to assist you in the creation of an Emergency Disk after installation. VirusScan scans files embedded within Microsoft Office files, including Word and Excel files. It can detect and clean macro virus infected, password-protected Excel 95 files without disturbing passwords. If a password-protected Word 7.0 (Word for Office 95) file is infected by a virus that can plant its own password, VirusScan cleans the file and removes the password. This version now scans Excel documents for formula-based macro viruses. It can detect and clean the XF/PAIX virus. It also scans .INI files to detect mIRC script viruses. VirusScan requires Windows 3.1x and at least 4 MB of RAM. Regn US\$49.

Melb 8986

Melb 8987

IconForge (16-bit) v3.0

IconForge (32-bit) v3.1a

IconForge is a comprehensive utility for creating and editing Windows format cursors, icons, multi-resolution icons, animated icons/cursors, and bitmap images. A variety of tools are available to create the desired finish. These include brushes, circles, rectangles, lines, flood fill, rotation, flip, area select, text, nudge and zoom. Transparent areas may be painted easily onto the icon image to allow the background colours to show through. IconForge easily works with multiple icons at the same time for easy cutting and pasting between images. Special effects filters such as whirlpool, tile, mosaic and sharpen/unsharpen are available also. These features, and the easy-to-use interface, make painting your own icon-sized pictures a snap. IconForge handles .ICO format icons, Cursors (.CUR) and animated Icon/Cursor (.ANI) files. It imports from and exports to .BMP, .PCX, .JPG, .TIF, and .PNG format bitmap images and even imports icons contained within Windows program .EXE and .DLL files. The program also has context-sensitive help, Multi-level Undo/Redo, and Windows clipboard support. This version includes automated animations, support for more file formats, True Colour icon and cursor resolutions (for Windows 98), custom icon sizes and many other improvements. The 16-bit version of IconForge requires Windows 3.1x, while the 32-bit version requires Windows 95/98/NT 4.0 or later. Regn US\$38.

Melb 9056**Opera WWW Browser (16-bit) v3.20****Melb 9057****Opera WWW Browser (32-bit) v3.20**

Opera is a World Wide Web client, that is, a program for retrieving information on the World Wide Web via documents created with the HyperText Markup Language (HTML). Opera also supports secure connections via the Secure Socket Layer (SSL), which is used for online purchases or banking, where your personal information is encrypted before being sent across the Net. Opera can be used to retrieve information using FTP, Gopher and WAIS, and for reading newsgroups. The same simple user interface is used for all of these services. You can also send electronic mail using Opera, or link to an external mail program. Opera can play WAV and MID sound files, display GIF and JPG images and play AVI videos (provided you have Video for Windows installed). The developers of Opera, are concerned that the program will be easy to use for as many people as possible, so they have also included the ability to use the program with the keyboard. The emphasis has been on fast and simple access to the important functions, and that it is also user-friendly for those with different handicaps. Opera can import your favourite Internet Explorer bookmarks. It can retrieve JPG images from newsgroups; both MIME and UUENCODE formats are supported. Opera can only read messages online; it doesn't store them onto your disk like other newsreaders. Opera is fast, powerful and flexible, but it is always easy to navigate and use. It supports Javascript but it does not support Java yet. This version includes improvements in the security module, default settings upon startup and in the Preferences menu and the options to "Save Document and Images as" to retrieve them in full at a later stage. The recommended configuration is an 80486 processor, with 8 MB of RAM, 4 MB of free disk space and Windows 3.1/95. Regn US\$35.

Melb 9071**EZ-Viewer32 v2.0**

EZ-Viewer32 is designed to be a very easy to use, yet powerful graphics program. The simple two-pane layout enables you to easily view one image after another as you browse your drives and directories. Images pop up in the viewing window immediately. This eliminates the constant File|Open, File|Close that is required in most other graphics programs. You can view images full-screen with a single click. You can zoom in, zoom out, resize, print, delete and rename files as well. A bonus feature is a continual display of the file size in kilobytes and pixels (perfect for Webmasters who need to know image dimensions). There is also a fully-functional thumbnail viewer option, which helps you to catalog your images and instantly, visually scan all of them for just the one you are looking for. This update corrects some errors that may occur under the new Windows 98 operating system. It requires Windows 95 or later, 8 MB of RAM and a mouse. Regn US\$29.

**Shareware is just
\$5 for the first disk,
\$4 for the next
and \$3 for all others,
per order, post included.**

**See the order form
on page 32.**

New disks**Melb 9192****Melb PC Internet****Setup Master (Win 9x) v1.0**

The Melb PC Internet Setup Master is a simple program that you can use to configure your Internet browser software for use with the MelbPC Internet Service. The program requires that you have either (or both) Internet Explorer (version 3 or later) or Netscape Navigator/Communicator (version 3 or later) already installed on your computer, either from the original installation of your operating system, or from some other source (such as one of the many computer magazines with CD-ROMs attached). Running the Setup Master from Windows will correctly configure your browser and create a choice of diallers. It will also enable you to set up multiple profiles in Netscape version 4. Users with Melb PC software already installed will be able to correctly reset all of their existing configuration by simply running the program. The Melb PC Internet Setup Master is suitable for Windows 95/98 only. Disks Melb 8714 to 8719, which contained version 3 of Internet Explorer (Windows 95) configured for the Melb PC Internet Service, have been deleted.

Melb 2646**Eraser v1.1**

Eraser is a powerful file wiping utility that securely removes sensitive data from your hard disk drive. By default Eraser overwrites your files several times with carefully selected patterns that effectively remove the magnetic remanence from your hard disk making it virtually impossible to recover the data. For faster (and less effective) file erasing, Eraser also supports a method defined in the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual of the US Department of Defense. The program also has an option to overwrite only with pseudo-random data. Eraser is freeware.

Melb 2647 PCI Configuration v1.17

PCICFG is a small utility to tell you more than you ever wanted to know about the PCI devices in your computer. PCI devices have an address that is broken down into a PCI-bus number (usually 0), a device number within that bus (0-31), and a function number within the device (0-7). PCI Configuration is able to scan all possible PCI addresses for active devices. This is handy utility to use when a device doesn't appear to be working. It requires a Pentium-based PC that utilises PCI devices (such as a video card or a network card).

Melb 2648 Notify CD Player v1.51

Notify CD Player is a CD player for regular audio CDs (including mixed data/audio) and resides in the system tray. It contains built-in support for the Internet-based CD database, which currently has more than 100,000 CD entries. Notify CD Player has an extensive amount of functionality in the context menu. It requires Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0 or later, a CD-ROM drive and a sound card with the correctly loaded drivers for it.

Melb 2649 BLANCH v1.9 (32-bit)

Blanch is a simple, yet powerful, drag-n-drop button bar for Window 95 and Windows NT 4.0. You can drag executable files or associated documents, folders and shortcuts (links) and drop them onto Blanch to create a new button, drag Blanch buttons between pages to duplicate a button. Blanch buttons have Cron capabilities, that is, they can be configured to launch automatically. Programs can be scheduled to launch based on the Minute, Hour, Day, Week Day or Month. Blanch can be shown as a floating button bar but it will

auto hide if you move the bar to one of the edges of the screen. If you right-click on a Blanch Button you will open the button context menu. From here you can delete or open the button properties dialog, change the executable, default directory or icon file and specify whether Blanch should minimise, maximise or run the program normally. You can also cut/copy/paste buttons as well as drag them around on the Blanch page. Blanch requires Windows 95/NT4. Regn US\$20.

Melb 2650**SweepGen v2.0**

SweepGen turns a sound-equipped PC into an Audio Oscillator and Sweep Generator. You can use it in conjunction with audio test instruments to make frequency response plots. SweepGen uses the sound card in your PC to produce sine waves that are mathematically correct, almost to CD quality. SweepGen has three operating modes: fixed frequency (with no sweep), a slow single sweep lasting about 45 seconds (intended for recording onto tape for subsequent replay and analysis), and a fast sweep lasting about 0.75 seconds. This mode is intended for use with an oscilloscope for direct analysis of a circuit or to show the effect of any tone controls on your audio board. You can program any frequency range that you want into Sweep, but if you make the maximum less than the minimum, you'll only get one frequency. Sweep has a choice of fixed output levels selectable from 0dB to -20dB in 3dB steps. It requires Windows 95 or later, and a sound card that has correctly loaded drivers.

Melb 9236-9237 Coeli—Stella 2000 v2.2 (32-bit) (2-disk set)

Stella 2000 is an astronomical simulation for the PC that runs in all 32-bit versions of Windows. It generates highly realistic views of the heavens in real time as observed from anywhere in the world. This virtual observatory comes with an observing log and list facility, live ephemeris, a location browser, and a sophisticated search embracing planets, comets, OSOs and over 15500 stars. Effects include scintillation, extinction, refraction and precession in point-source, photoplate and spotlight display modes, with the complete Messier catalog in ImageIcons featured as standard. You can choose between four different celestial projections and observe from between 0-90 degrees of elevation and 0-360 degrees of the compass in resizable windows or in full-screen mode. You can advance, retard or animate the simulation's clock by years, months, days and minutes of both sidereal or solar time. A permanent level-one database, the Bright Star Catalog, is present in both the shareware and registered versions of Stella 2000. This is supplemented by a 7000 star selection from the ultra-modern ESA Hipparcos satellite sky survey. The sky and the ephemerides may be printed in either mono or colour, with both horizon and equatorial grids, equator, ecliptic, horizon, constellation lines, names, boundaries and legends. Stella needs Windows 95/98/NT with a minimum of an 80486DX processor, 8 MB of RAM and 1 MB of video RAM. The recommended system is a Pentium 100 or later, with 16 MB of RAM and a graphics card equipped with at least 2 MB of RAM. Your Windows display must be in either Hi-color or Truecolor mode, at a resolution of at least 800x600 pixels. The optimum screen resolution is 1024x768. A display of only 256 colours is bound to be a disappointment. If your video subsystem is not up to displaying in at least Hi-color at 800 x 600, you could try the slightly less demanding Coeli—Electric Planisphere (on Melb 8636). Regn 25 Pounds Sterling or US\$45. This will get you a personal (dedicated) copy of the latest version preprogrammed with your name, home location and startup preferences.

Melb 9238 Simple Business Invoicing & Inventory v1.03 (Win 95)

Simple Business Invoicing & Inventory (SBI) is a comprehensive sales and inventory management system for small businesses. It includes plain paper invoicing, automatic billing, customer profile reporting, mailing list management and sales tracking. SBI has an intuitive graphical interface with pop-up menus and pick lists that minimise typing. For example, to create an invoice you simply choose the customer and products sold from a series of menus. SBI fills in the invoice and computes the sales tax for you. Once you record purchases of the products that you sell, SBI tracks inventories by deducting items sold from your inventory on hand. Inventory may be managed using either the First in-First out or Last in-First out methods. Product sales reports give a complete picture of the products that are selling and those that are not. The Buyers report shows you the names of customers who have purchased a particular product. Customer profile reports show each customer, the items they have purchased and the dates each item was purchased. Customers can be separated into up to 100 groups. Mailing lists and address labels can be generated for any combination of one or more groups of customers. This feature helps you to target your mass mailings to just those customers who are most likely to respond to a given mailing. You can print invoices and bills on your own letterhead. SBI is fully Year 2000 compatible. SBI requires an 80486-66 processor, 2 MB of disk space and Windows 95 or later. Regn from US\$59.

Melb 9239 Small Business Advisor v98.3 (USA-based)

Small Business Advisor is a unique "expert system" designed to aid a small business in coping with and understanding many of the "ground rules" that will apply, including taxes, business laws/regulations, financing sources, incorporation (or not), personnel policies, home-office considerations and much more. Although this program is based on United States circumstances it will give an insight into the many areas that must be considered when establishing a small business. It would be very informative if you are an exporter or if you are considering setting up any form of business activity in the US. The program consists of over 600 pages of up-to-date information (both Federal and all 50 states) by a Harvard lawyer-CPA. It is menu-driven and can be learnt in five minutes. Text advice is all customised for the user's business fact situation, and includes custom startup checklists, tax planning modules and other advice. You can quickly access information by a key word search or from an index. Each subject file is "customised" to display information particular to your state law and your business, based on information the program has requested from you about your business. The program also contains built-in worksheet templates for helping you to create a marketing study, a business plan, or personnel policies. A "Professional" version of the program is available, for those who need access to tax/legal information for all 50 states. Small Business Advisor will run on minimum hardware (8086/8088, dos 3.0 and 512 KB of RAM) but it requires 2 MB of hard disk space. Regn US\$30 (single state) to US\$50 (all states).

Melb 9240

Download Assistant v1.3

Download Assistant will automate, track and categorise all of the files that you download from the Internet. How many times have you been surfing the Web and downloading files, when suddenly you cannot remember (a) where on your hard drive the file was downloaded to, (b) what the name of the file was, (c) why you downloaded it in the first place, (d) where it came from, (e) if it was scanned for viruses, etc.? With Download Assistant, you will never have to worry about those details again. The program efficiently tracks and organises File Names and Descriptions, Sources, Notes, Download Date, Date File Opened and When and if the file has been scanned for viruses. It can automatically scan all incoming files for viruses, prompt you in a certain number of days if you have not opened a file and delete files after a certain time. Other features include seamless integration with Internet Explorer 3.0 (or later) and Netscape 2.0 (or later), fully customisable download reports that you can save to either a file, print or fax, a drag and drop interface and a customisable toolbar. You can use Download Assistant to manage more than just Internet downloads. You can drag any files on your system into folders managed by the program and have instant information tracking abilities. You can use it to categorise and track key groups of files on your hard drive such as pictures, fonts, software patches, games or drivers. Why not use it to store notes and other information for anything on your system that needs an extra bit of information tracking? Download Assistant requires Windows 95 or later. Regn US\$35.

Perfect 2000

Cyrix M2-PR233Mhz MMX
Intel Triton TX Chipset
512KB Pipeline Burst Cache
32MB SD RAM,
2.1GB UDMA Hard Drive
24 speed CD-ROM
16Bit Sound Card
55W Speakers
Panasonic 1.44MB Floppy
1MB S3Video Card
14" N/I L/R Monitor
104 Mitsubishi Keyboard
Mitsumi Mouse & Pad
MiniTower

\$1150.00

Perfect 5233

Intel Pentium II 233 Mhz
512KB L2 Cache
64MB SDRAM,
4.3GB Hard Drive
24 Speed CD-ROM
Sound Blaster AWE64
Nicole 120W Speaker
Panasonic 1.44MB Floppy
4MB Diamond Viper 330
15" N/I L/R Monitor
104 Honeywell Keyboard
Microsoft Mouse & Pad
Heavy Duty Midi ATX Tower Model
Windows 95 Full Version CD



Perfect 5350

Intel Pentium II 350Mhz CPU
Intel BX Motherboard
64MB SDRAM
3.2GB Hard Drive
24 speed CD-ROM
Shuttle 3D 64 Voice Sound Card
120W Speakers
Panasonic 1.44MB Floppy
8MB Diamond Stealth II G460
15" Hyundai N/I L/R Monitor
PS/2 Keyboard
PS/2 Mouse & Pad
ATX Midi Tower
Windows 95 Full version CD



Perfect Upgrade

MB & CPU

686P233MX / 266MX	with TX MB	\$290/\$379
Pentium Celeron 266/300	with LX MB	\$419/\$479
Pentium II 333/350	with BX MB	\$969/\$1209

RAM

32MB EDO / SD RAM	\$89
64MB EDO / SD RAM	\$172
128MB SD RAM	\$409

HARD DRIVE

2.1GB / 4.3GB	\$245 / \$299
6.4GB / 8.4GB	\$389 / \$499

MONITOR

15" Hyundai	\$349
17" Hyundai	\$749
17" Sony	\$1209

All kinds of Printers

HEWLETT PACKARD Canon EPSON



ULTIMATE Perfect 5350

\$2499.00

Reference Letter

"The Perfect 5300 is the fastest PC we've tested to date, even beating the mammoth 333Mhz Pentium II from Dell tested this month. If bang is what you want, then look no further."

April issue, 1998 PC World

"Ultimate has consistently submitted machines that are among the fastest on test. It is also gathering a reputation for providing machines are good value for money, and this month the Perfect 5233 makes it concrete by snagging the coveted PC @uthority Value Award."

April issue, 1998 PC@UTHORITY

"This month, Ultimate Computing Technology surprised us in two ways. Where we expected a maximum of a Pentium II/300 in this Labs, Ultimate not only managed to submit a new 350MHz CPU with startling performance, but is also provided a solid features specification. Another important feature of budget machines is the upgrade potential and the Perfect doesn't disappoint."

September Issue, 1998

PC@UTHORITY

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Melb 9241 File Wrangler (16-bit) v2.1

Melb 9242 File Wrangler (32-bit) v2.1

Not only does FileWrangler ZIP and UNZIP files, it can handle all of your other file management tasks such as copying, moving, renaming and deleting files. You can use FileWrangler to view the contents of files while you browse through the folders on your system. It can view many image formats, play AVI and WAV files and view text (even hexadecimal) files. An on-board text editor is ideal for composing short notes, for touching up HTML, or for editing system configuration files. Its ZIP features make archiving files as easy as dragging and dropping them to and from file folders. Also, you can view ZIP contents, span disks, make self-extracting executable files and add password protection. With FileWrangler you can open several file lists at once, and you can view files in either tree view or list view modes. The interface may also be configured to support document file drawers. This means that you can view only those file types that you actually need to see. The program also provides you with security options to hide file types, folders and drives from File Manager users, and to prevent access to various file management functions. You can wipe deleted files and encrypt/decrypt files. The 16-bit version of File Wrangler requires Windows 3.1X and the 32-bit version requires Windows 95/98/NT. Regn US\$45.

Melb 9243 FZip Family Tree v1.5

FZip Family Tree is a genealogy program that you can use to view, search, and maintain genealogy details and report on family trees. The software is fast and friendly to use. It has high speed GEDCOM import and export facilities making it suitable as a GEDCOM browser. The main screen shows up to four generations of people and provides simple navigation around a family tree. Data entry and modification is simple and quick using full screen data entry. Data is stored for both people and relationships in a compressed format to minimise disk storage. There is a limit of 65,534 people per file, but each person may have up to 600 children! Notes may be stored for people (up to 30,000 characters) and for relationships (up to 4096 characters). When a file is saved a backup of the previous version is stored as a backup. New files can be created easily. Sixteen different reports are available, including a Date Check Report, a Kinship Report and a Family Summary Report. Alphabetic Indexes are available for the Family Group, Descendant Tree, Descendant Box, Descendant Story, Ancestor Tree and Ancestor Story reports. Each index lists all of the people reported (in alphabetic order) with the page number and the line number where they appear in the report. Some reports have choices for sorting the data and reports can be directed to screen,

printer or file. A simple search facility is available to quickly and easily find people. A more powerful search and sort facility can search by any field for People, Marriages, Places and Sources and it includes a special selection to select Roots, Unrelated, Ancestors, Ancestor Roots or Descendants. Online help is available. FZip Family Tree can be run from a floppy disk. It requires Windows 3.1X and 4 MB of RAM, or Windows 95 with 8 MB of RAM. Regn A\$39.

Melb 9244-9245

The Cross Trainer v2.8 (2-disk set)

The Cross Trainer was designed to help anyone achieve and maintain fitness in their daily lives. This is a suitable program to properly manage your fitness program. The Cross Trainer enables you to track Nutrition, Weight Lifting and Aerobic Activity. It will also create and schedule sessions designed for your level and sport. The Cross Trainer will set goals for each session, and will print your session for you before going to the gym. It requires Windows 3.1x or later, an 80486 or faster processor, 4 MB of RAM and up to 100 MB of hard disk space. It is recommended that you use a Pentium-based system with 8 MB of RAM, Windows 95/NT4.0 or later and a large amount of free space on your hard disk drive. Regn US\$35 for up to two users. Other registrations are available, including for up to 500 users and tailoring the software (suitable for large fitness centres).

Melb 9246 GetRight (32-bit) v3.2

GetRight is an Internet Download Manager. It has many configuration options and features to suit users from the most novice user who just wants to download a file, to the most sophisticated power user who wants to control every feature to suit their exact needs. The program can gracefully recover and resume from many errors that happen while downloading files. It has been tested and successfully recovered from turning off the computer; unplugging the modem from the wall; and, someone picking up a telephone extension; all while downloading. GetRight can be scheduled to start downloading at a selected time by dialing your Internet Service Provider (ISP) when it is time to make the connection, downloading the files, then disconnecting the modem and even turning off the computer when it has finished downloading the files. You can schedule GetRight to take advantage of off-peak phone rates. GetRight can be set up to build a list of downloads to be completed later. It supports several file formats for determining alternate addresses for downloading files. It can even automatically calculate and track alternate addresses for a file, and then ping the servers to find and transparently switch to the one that should offer the best performance for downloading. GetRight can process a web page to find all the files available so you can quickly mark the ones you want to download. You just drag-and-drop links from your web browser to GetRight. Configurable options provide for setting directories for saving files by file type, setting a list of user names and passwords for logging into servers that need them, and sending each file to the virus scanner of your choice when downloading has finished. GetRight integrates into both Netscape Navigator/Communicator and Microsoft Internet Explorer (4.0) so using it is seamless with your web browser. It requires Windows 95/98/NT3.51 or later. Regn US\$18.

Melb 9247-9248

PC Webopaedia Lite v1.90 (2-disk set)

If you've ever wished you could easily find reliable definitions for computer terms and acronyms, then PC Webopaedia Lite is the program for you. It contains clearly written definitions of more than 3,000 computer terms and thousands of cross-references. Best of all, PC Webopaedia Lite has built-in connections to the PC Webopaedia web site, which is updated daily with new

terms, new definitions and hand-selected links to the best technical pages on the Web. It requires Windows 95 or later, and an Internet connection to obtain updates. PC Webopaedia Lite is a freeware program.

Melb 9249 Ping Plotter v2 (Win 9x)

Ping Plotter is an enhanced trace route program. It does all of the things that a normal trace route program does but it does them faster (and better). The program can be used by someone with no network experience. In its basic mode you just type in the address you want information about and hit "Trace". Ping Plotter starts tracing and shows you a graph of the response time through the route of the packet from source to destination. This really highlights problem hops and performance bottlenecks and lets you concentrate on trouble areas. The program uses multiple threads to increase performance and accuracy. This means that Ping Plotter sends out a request for the next hop before waiting for the previous hop to respond. A complete one sample trace can be done in about 5-10% of the time it takes to do a trace with the Windows "TRACERT" command. Because each echo request is sent out (almost) simultaneously the times you're comparing are all sent out under the same conditions. Ping Plotter uses very little CPU to do its job so you can run it continuously without interfering with other tasks. You can save your data to a file and export any portion of it to a comma-delimited text file for analysis by other software packages, such as Microsoft Excel. Ping Plotter graphs can be resized, rescaled, zoomed and dragged to give you exactly the information you need to find the problem. Ping Plotter requires Windows 9x. Regn US\$15.

Melb 9250 EditPlus (32-bit) v1.1

EditPlus is an Internet-ready, fully-featured, 32-bit text editor for both Windows 95/98 and NT 4.0. It is not only a replacement for Notepad, but it also has much more powerful features for web-page authors and programmers. The customisable syntax highlighting feature is available for HTML, C/C++, Perl and Java. (It can be extended to support other languages too). You can use the seamless browser window to preview HTML files or Java applets without leaving the editor. The document selector provides an extremely quick and easy way to switch between open documents. The document template enables a quick start for newly created documents, while the auto-completion feature provides quick abbreviation of frequently-used phrases. This can save typing and provides more efficient editing. A HTML Toolbar provides quick and easy access to the most frequently-used HTML tags. EditPlus can execute user-defined tools and optionally capture the output. You can also define user help files and keyboard macros. Other features include the ability to handle large files, undo/redo, search and replace, drag-n-drop editing, spelling checker, a customisable and dockable flat-looking toolbar and word-wrap. EditPlus requires Windows 95/98/NT4 and 2 MB of disk space. The (optional) seamless browser feature requires Internet Explorer 3 or later. Regn US\$20.

Melb 9251 Jeroboam Wine Cellar Management v2.0

Jeroboam is wine cellar management software for wine connoisseurs who want to look after their own cellars. It will help you to appreciate the best vintages to know the correct serving temperature, and to know about pairing dishes with your favourite wines. Each wine stored in your cellar is recorded by colour (white, rose or red), by production region or country and by name. You can record in the database your appreciation (from 0 to 20) for each vintage of each name. This database can be completed as your experience grows. Jeroboam keeps information about consumed wine including the name of your guests and your appreciation (of the wines). You can record details of wines consumed

The order form for disks from the Melb PC Shareware/Freeware library is on page 32 of each issue of PC Update.

Shareware is just \$5 for the first disk, \$4 for the next and \$3 for all others, per order, post included.

at restaurants, even if you do not have those wines in your cellar. The lengths of some of the database fields can be modified to suit your own needs. You can import into, and export from, your database using simple text format files. You can print a list of the wines in your cellar (or the wines selected by your search criteria). The menus, screens and dishes can be shown in English or in French. This shareware version contains all the functionality of the registered program but your cellar is restricted to 10 items (unlimited in the registered version). Jeroboam requires an 80486 or faster processor, Windows 3.1/95 and 4 MB of RAM. Regn US\$15.

Melb 9252 CabPack v1.3 (Win 9x)

CabPack is a compression program with which you can create cabinet (.CAB) files. With just a few mouse clicks you specify which files to compress, which compression method to use, where the output files should go and whether or not the cabinet files should span multiple disks. CabPack can store subdirectories and, depending on the platform you wish to extract the cabinets on, it can create .CAB files that contain long filenames or it can store these long filenames in the 8.3 format. If you wish to use disk spanning you can specify the maximum disk size, by clicking on one of the supplied values or by entering a user-defined value. Even if you specify one of the floppy options, you will have to compress to a disk drive that has enough free space to hold ALL cabinet files of the set. You cannot compress directly to a diskette. Instead, after compression has finished, you can copy the .CAB files onto the appropriate diskettes. CabPack is a true 32-bit program with a graphical user interface. Both the English and the German versions of the documentation are included on the disk. CabPack has been tested with Windows 95 and Windows 98. CabPack is freeware.

Melb 9253

Calmira Shell v2.2

Calmira is a Windows 95 user interface for the Windows 3.1x operating system. It is a fully integrated environment for managing your files and programs, and it is designed to run smoothly on 386 and 486 computers. Calmira includes an icon-based explorer to manage files in free-floating windows, support for 400s file descriptions in place of long filenames, Desktop and file-based shortcuts to any object or URL, a Taskbar with a versatile Start Menu, and an 80-page on-line manual containing all the help you'll need. Calmira requires an 80386 or faster processor, 4 MB of RAM, a VGA or better video card and monitor, a mouse and Windows 3.1 or Windows for Workgroups 3.11. It is recommended that you use 8 MB of RAM.

Melb 9254

DateTime File Stamp v1.0 (Win 95)

DateTime File Stamp enables you to stamp a group of files with a common date and time before the files are distributed. For example, a software developer may wish to stamp all files in a finished application, or just the newly created/modified files in an upgraded version of an application. The program's user interface uses an Explorer-like folder tree and file list to help you to navigate through the file system and to select multiple files for stamping. All or just some files in a single folder are selected and stamped together. The desired date and time is set by individual spin buttons for month, day, year, hour and minute. Optionally, the time is rounded to hours or days. It is possible to set the date to any value between the beginning of the year 1970 and the end of the year 2037. The C++ source code for DateTime File Stamp is available for registered users. DateTime File Stamp requires an 80386-16 processor with Windows 3.1x or later and 100 KB of disk space. Regn from US\$15.

Melb 9255

QuickRun v2.02 (32-bit)

If you have you ever wondered if there is a better way to run a program than to drill down through the Start Menu's cascading menus then QuickRun is for you. QuickRun is a utility to provide easy access to your most commonly used programs. A bar of icons is placed next to the taskbar in its own floating window that can be docked to the Windows Taskbar. Each icon represents a menu of programs. Each menu can hold program shortcuts that can be arranged in any order on a menu. Full drag and drop support is also available so that programs can be easily added to and moved about on the menus. You can activate menus with a specified hotkey or you can use Hover mode (simply move the mouse pointer over the icon for a second). Menu icons 'pop-out' like Office 97 and Internet Explorer. QuickRun supports multiple menus but you are limited to 2 menus (with 10 items per menu) in this shareware version. The number of menus and menu items are unlimited once you register. QuickRun requires Windows 95/NT4. Regn US\$15.

Melb 9256

IrfanView (32-bit) v2.83

IrfanView is an image viewer and converter for the Windows 95 and Windows NT operating systems. It contains many features common to most image viewers, but it also has batch conversion and a built-in slideshow function. The list of supported file formats is lengthy, but the formats MPG/MPEG, ANI, AVI, PSD, ICO, CUR and JPG/JPEG are some of the most recent additions to its list. IrfanView requires Windows 95 or later, 8 MB of RAM and a VGA or better graphics display and monitor. Regn US\$10.

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Financial Report for year ended 30 June 1998

I am pleased to submit and report on the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 1998. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and accurately reflect the financial results of the Group's activities.

Summary

The Group has recorded an operating surplus of \$47,538 compared with \$258,335 in 1996/7. During this period there has also been significant capital expenditure on new equipment and the fit out of our Dorcas Street premises.

Membership

Individual membership income has not grown as much as anticipated. The total number of members as at 30 June 1998 is 11,020 of which 1224 are individual family members. This compares with 11,482 and 860 as at 30 June 1997. Action is being taken to generate increased membership.

PC Update

A reduction in income from advertising compared with the previous year was partially offset by containment of production costs so that the overall result is in line with expectations.

Training

While most courses have been well supported, others were cancelled through lack of interest. Nevertheless,

training continues to make a positive financial contribution to the Group's administration costs.

Disk and Shareware sales

These represent a continuing service to members and provide a positive contribution to the Group's financial results.

Internet

Significantly increased operating costs of connection and telephones have been incurred in this high profile area due to improvements in bandwidth and line capacity, and these have been reflected in increased income. Litigation and increased legal costs relate to a case that was settled earlier this year.

Conferences and Meeting costs

These include the costs paid by the Group for offsite monthly and SIG meetings.

Rent Rates and Taxes

These have increased because of the move to larger premises.

Capital expenditure

In last year's financial report reference was made to the allocation of \$250,000 to cover the cost of the re-location to the new Dorcas Street premises. That the actual cost was less than this is a tribute to the careful management of the re-location project by the president, Stan Johnstone.

Apart from the fitout costs, significant expenditure has

been incurred in upgrading Internet lines and equipment and in providing improved and additional facilities for meetings and the office.

Staffing

A major contribution to the positive financial results is our staff—paid and voluntary. We thank them for their efficiency and hard work.

Conclusion

Despite the major impacts of an office re-location and equipment upgrades, the Group remains in a sound financial position as it faces the constant challenge of providing continually improving services to members.

Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated Balance Sheet as at 30 June 1998

	1998	1997
Current Assets	\$	\$
Debtors	15,163	7,074
Less Provision for Doubt	(3,000)	(3,000)
	12,163	4,074
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	121,023	89,053
Commonwealth Bank Bills	772,082	854,656
Commonwealth Term Deposit	32,500	32,500
Cash on Hand	400	400
Stock On Hand	364	966
Prepayments	8,711	11,865
	947,244	993,514
Less Current Liabilities		
Creditors and Accruals	98,481	77,280
Sundry Creditors & Accruals	407,020	357,776
	505,501	435,056
	441,743	558,458
Add Fixed Assets		
Equipment & Fittings	1,114,569	703,402
Less Provision for Depreciation	(669,166)	(420,389)
	445,403	283,013
	887,145	841,471
Represented By		
Membership Equity 1 July 1997	837,915	579,558
Equipment Reserve	1,694	3,578
	839,608	583,136
Add / (Less) Surplus to date	47,536	258,335
	887,145	841,471

**Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated
Income and Expenditure Statement
for the Year Ended 30 June 1998**

	1998 \$	1997 \$
INCOME		
Non-operating	52,127	63,355
Disk Sales	2,472	4,754
Magazine Income	78,793	112,657
Membership	483,425	529,890
PD Sales	26,022	29,920
Training	63,962	69,302
Internet	555,112	437,864
TOTAL INCOME	1,261,913	1,247,742
EXPENSES		
Advertising and Awards	10,004	7,888
Audit and Accounting	2,750	3,550
Connection Costs	184,360	101,452
Bad Debts	-	1,050
Bank Fees	10,148	12,512
Cleaning	9,633	4,676
Commission Advertising	13,301	15,915
Conferences and Meetings	30,372	9,094
Consultancy	22,413	27,124
Debt Collection Expense	-	341
Delivery Expenses	65,432	61,240
Depreciation	246,893	176,686
General Expenses	(24)	2,446
Heat Light and Power	11,254	7,013
Hire of Equipment	-	100
Insurance	7,651	6,129
Legal and Litigation Costs	6,708	3,323
Postage	21,284	23,556
Printing and Stationary	16,077	21,070
Production-Magazine	166,440	174,854
Purchases Disks	5,291	9,303
Purchases Library Books	588	-
Rent Rates and Taxes	59,550	37,222
Repairs and Maintenance	6,322	30,057
Security	1,182	1,362
Software	2,310	2,909
Staff and SIG Amenities	2,260	1,513
Subscriptions and Donations	796	2,398
Superannuation	6,977	10,422
Telephone and Fax	107,730	76,137
Travel and Accommodation	17,427	13,884
Wages and Salary	125,062	138,979
Workcare	972	987
Total	1,161,164	985,192
Extraordinary Costs - Litigation	53,211	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,214,375	985,192
OPERATING INCOME	47,538	262,550
Less Transfer To Reserve	-	4,215
NET INCOME	47,538	258,335

**Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 30 June 1998**

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared and presented in accordance with Accounting Concepts and applicable Accounting Standards, which have been consistently applied. They have been prepared using historical cost convention and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

2. Stock and Purchases

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, and costs are assigned on a first-in first-out basis.

3. Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are brought into account at cost less accumulated depreciation.

4. Depreciation

Depreciation on assets is calculated on a straight line basis over the useful life of the asset commencing from the time the asset is first available for use.

5. Prepaid Subscriptions

All subscriptions for Internet relating to the period after 30 June 1998 are included in the accounts as current liabilities, and will be allocated to the periods which they cover.

6. Commitments and Contingencies

Operating lease commitment	30 June 98	30 June 97
Future minimum operating lease payments		
Not later than one year	\$ 77,520	\$ 72,258
Later than one year		
but not later than two years	\$ 80,621	\$ 77,920
Later than two years		
but not later than five years	\$ 174,817	\$ 249,910
Later than five years	\$ -	\$ 3,711
	\$ 332,958	\$ 403,799

**Auditor's Report to the Members of
Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated**

I advise that I have audited the financial statements, including the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Statement and Notes to the Accounts, of the Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated ("the Group") for the year ended 30 June, 1998 in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Rule 37 of the Group's rules. I have not been requested to audit, or express an opinion on, any matters not contained within that Rule, and accordingly no such opinion is expressed herein.

I have obtained all the information and explanations requested.

In my opinion:

- (a) the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Statement and Notes to the Accounts are properly drawn up:
 - (i) to exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position of the Group as at 30 June, 1998, and
 - (ii) in accordance with the books of account of the Group, and
- (b) the rules of the Group relating to the administration of funds have been properly observed.

Dated this 1st day of September, 1998.

Peter G Salter, FCA
Registered Company Auditor



How does the Melb PC Internet service work?

Many Internet users have very little idea of how the Internet actually works. Even fewer understand how Melb PC's Internet service is configured. This article gives you a simple description of the Internet and a brief explanation of how our service operates. It is aimed at a relatively new user.

What is the Internet?

The Internet is a collection of many thousands of linked computers, connected using a portion of the total resources of the currently existing public telecommunication networks. Perhaps the best known element of the Internet is the World Wide Web (www or simply the Web). The Web is used primarily for activities that use browser software and the Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTP). Other portions of the Web include mail, news and FTP servers, and other computers performing various tasks, all over the world.

This global computer network provides

many services. Although most of the servers are running under the UNIX operating system, users with computers running Windows, Mac, UNIX and other operating systems, can access them. One interesting fact is that there is no governing body over this global computer communications network. This shows what cooperation at a technical level can achieve with virtually no government intervention or regulation.

How does Melb PC fit in?

The diagram shows the main hardware used at Melb PC. The first photo shows some of the computers mentioned in the schematic diagram. Note that not all have a monitor connected. They can all be administered via another computer. The second photo shows various boxes mounted in racks. The bank of lights on the left hand side corresponds to the old Dataplex 33.6 Kbps modems. The new bank of 120 modems are in two very small grey boxes without any lights on the front. Some of the other

items are computers, hubs, uninterruptible power supplies (UPSs), tape drives and of course a Cisco router (another nondescript small box).

Despite its appearance, a router is a very fast intelligent electronic switch that creates (or maintains) a table of available routes, from this table, the router determines the best route for a given packet of information to reach its destination.

If you are a subscriber to Melb PC's Internet service, you can dial one of our Internet phone numbers. Upon making a connection, the system verifies your user name and password. Once your identity has been established, you can read your mail and messages in the newsgroups Melb PC receives, or you can surf the net. "Surfing" refers to looking at (browsing) Internet Web sites.

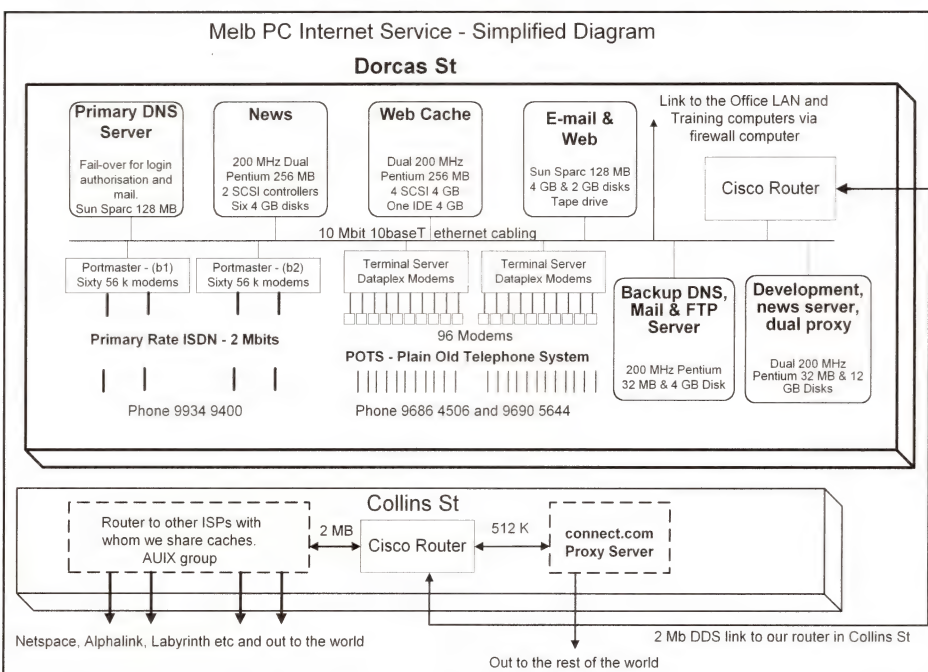
The files that make up a Web site can be on any number of machines anywhere in the world. In contrast, mail (sent to our subscribers) and news (the postings from groups we receive) are stored on our computers.

Mail sent to our subscribers is kept on our mail server until the subscriber deletes it. Most mail readers are set up to delete messages from the server, once the message has been downloaded successfully. Check yours, because if it is not set up this way, you may suddenly stop receiving mail, when your "inbox" becomes full. If you receive a lot of mail, this is liable to happen sooner rather than later.

It's a different story for news. There can be up to 6 GB of news messages every day. With a total storage capacity for news of 24 GB, that means that we can't hold news messages forever.

Although different group hierarchies are set to have different ageing parameters, within any group, the newest messages are displacing the oldest.

For surfing purposes, the Domain Name Server (DNS) is the most important computer. It keeps track of



most IP (Internet Protocol) addresses and the corresponding names humans use. It is much easier for humans to remember a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) such as *www.microsoft.com* than to remember Microsoft's IP number 207.46.130.17. However, all the computers that make up the Internet use these numbers, not names, in their protocols to identify themselves and others.

When you enter a URL or click on a hyperlink on a Web page, your request goes via our router to a proxy server. The proxy server checks to see if the page you requested has been accessed recently, by you or someone else. If it has, the data is transferred from whichever local computer (in Melbourne) has it, rather than going to the distant (originating) site. Using the proxy server in this way has several benefits:

- You get your data more quickly from the local computer
- It cuts down on international traffic
- It saves Melb PC a lot of money.

Between Melb PC's computers and the Internet is a hardware/software combination that makes up a security device called a firewall.

A firewall moves all traffic through a single point, examines every packet and filters out any that may be potentially harmful. **The firewall doesn't examine the content of messages.** A firewall looks at a packet's structure, source and destination, to identify unauthorised access attempts or attempts to run unauthorised processes.

A packet is the unit of data that is routed between an origin and a destination on the Internet. When any file (program, image, Web page or e-mail message) is sent from one place to another on the Internet, it is split into very small chunks (called packets). Each of these packets includes an identifying code and the Internet address of the packet's destination. The individual packets for a single file may travel different routes to arrive at the same destination, and the identifying code is used to re-assemble the file into its original format.

Melb PC Internet statistics

By far our biggest single expense is the traffic charge. This is the fee that we pay to the organisations that supply the cables, satellite links, computers and routers to connect Melb PC computers to the Internet. For example, the phone

bill for over 200 lines, and a charge for the volume of data transmitted over those lines.

Last financial year the bill for our traffic charges was about \$180,000 while the phone bill was nearly \$100,000.

In a typical day more than 2000 users connect to Melb PC in more than 4000 sessions. Now you know why we have many powerful computers with lots of memory and disk capacity to run the system. Melb PC's computers are processing a lot of data continually—everything from validating a user's identity to checking connection times, receiving, sending and deleting mail and news messages, downloading files, monitoring the modems, screening out intruders, writing logs, backing up data, and updating a myriad of statistics. At the same time they are sending and receiving data for every user who clicks on a link in a browser or reads a news message.

The speed of response depends of many factors. One bottleneck can be the 512 KB link, which you can regard as the main supply pipe to the outside world. How many users are logged on at any one time, and what each of them is doing, effects response speed, because the link is being shared with the other Melb PC users logged on at the time.

The bandwidth of this link is our major cost, and we will be upgrading this in the near future.

Another reason for poor response times can be clogged conditions further upstream, anywhere between us and the machine you are trying to reach, and these factors are outside our control.

One thing that probably does not have an effect on the response speed is the speed of your computer. If your modem is slow or there is a lot of line noise on the local line, it can influence the maximum speed at which your modem transfers information, and thus limit response time. But this is not generally the limiting factor.

Just a very few volunteers perform all the administration of our Internet service. This is the main reason why the costs are much lower than most other service providers.

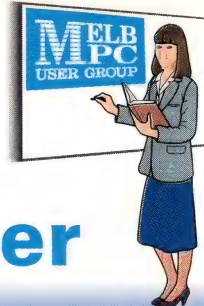
Recently substantial changes have occurred in the way we obtain our bulk data, that is our connection to the rest of the world. A new \$16,000 Cisco router was purchased to give us an alternate supply and redundancy. In the near future we will be investing more money to purchase additional phone lines, new V90 modems and, as I wrote earlier, more bandwidth.

All this is designed to improve our system and response. To this end, I do daily performance monitoring to establish a baseline for our response so that we can see if something has changed over a longer term.

I'm pleased to report that although our response is slightly worse than OzEmail or Telstra (both of which charge far more than we do) it is very much better than the only large ISP that is cheaper than us.

For example, if you were using OzEmail for just one hour per day it would cost \$1850 for one year. We give you up to two hours per day for \$140 per year.





Courses: October—November

Info Box

Where are courses held?

At the group's premises, usually in the Training Room. Some courses are held in the SIG room so check when you arrive.

The address is 27 Dorcas Street (Cnr of Wells Street), South Melbourne VIC 3205

How do I get there?

There is usually plenty of parking available nearby in the evenings or at weekends or tram to corner of St. Kilda Rd and Dorcas Street and walk two blocks down Dorcas Street.

Important!

You will obtain greater benefit from a course if you have the skills recommended by trainers as prerequisites for their courses. Otherwise, you may not be able to keep up with the class practical sessions.

How do I book a course?

Please use the order form on page 31 or (for credit card orders only) phone or fax the office (numbers on page 3).

Early enrolment is advised as places are limited. Enrolments/bookings without payment will **not** be accepted.

I have something to say!

You can contact Training with suggestions for courses or other training-related matters by sending e-mail to Lynn Pollock at lynn@melbpc.org.au

Application courses

Quicken for small business \$180

Viv Martin
6.30 pm–9.30 pm,
Tue 6, 13, 20, 27 Oct.
Bookkeeping, record keeping, producing reports for accountants using Quicken or Quicken for Business.
Prerequisites: Basic Windows experience assumed. Ideally, ownership of the latest Australianised version of Quicken for Windows.

Introduction to Powerpoint \$45

Caroline Houston
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 21 Oct.
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 19 Nov.
This course gives an introduction to the capability of the tools, using the templates and wizards, creating graphics and creating standard slides. Students will create presentations that can be given as on-screen shows or printed for use on an overhead projector. This course is a must in preparation for your next meeting/conference delivery.
Prerequisites: Familiarity with Windows 95 including mouse and keyboard skills.

Courses by request

These courses are available by request subject to minimum student numbers. Please register your interest with the office.

- QuickBooks
- Office 97 overview
- Communications workshop
- Housekeeping a computer
- Memory management
- Virus protection and recovery
- Overview of Windows 95
- Writing batch files
- Using the Internet with Windows 3.x
- Computer Basics

MS Word v6/7/97 merging \$66

Jill Renison
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 16 Oct.
On completion of this course students will be able to create and work with a data source, perform a merge, merge to envelopes and labels, merge from an external data source.
Prerequisites: Must be able to create, save and edit Word documents, and have experience using a mouse with Windows.

Advanced Access \$162

Peter Fallon
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Mon 5, 12, 19 Oct.
Learning Outcomes
This course builds on a good knowledge of the product, and teaches you how to perform many complex and advanced database operations and solve technical problems. At the completion of this course, participants will be able to: Build complex queries that link multiple tables and perform calculations, Create macros and forms for automating operations, and build a fully automated application. Use the merging facility. Look at the new advanced features of Access 97, create Visual basic for applications modules, use VBA code to enhance forms and reports, understand where macros and VBA programs should be used, and the requirements/limitations of each. A Brief look at Access in context: Development in Office 97 and Visual Basic 5.0.
Course Topics: Data Modelling, Queries—a fresh look at the whole engine, Merging data with Office 97, Complex Forms, Access Database Security, More Macros, Creating an Application, Visual Basic for Applications. Using VBA in Queries, Forms and Reports Issues for development. What the documentation does not tell you.
Prerequisites: A good working knowledge of databases or Access is required or attendance at the Intermediate Access 97 course. Importantly, a demonstrated knowledge and understanding of Win 95 is required. Basic Windows features (use of menus, use of mouse) will not be covered.

Communication courses

Introduction to the Melb PC BBS \$45

Lynn Pollock
1.00 pm–4.00 pm, Sun 22 Nov.
A basic examination of the Melb PC BBS covering initial logon, menu system, message areas, file areas and transfers, plus tips and tricks.
Prerequisites: None.
See also: File management, archiving and compression techniques.

Internet courses

Note: If you are starting with minimal knowledge, we suggest that the Internet courses are best attended in the sequence shown. More advanced students should attend at their skill level.

1. Introduction to the Internet \$45

Lynn Pollock
9.00 am–noon, Sat 24 Oct.
9.00 am–noon, Sun 22 Nov.
An overview of the Melb PC Internet service. Live explanations of all the major programs that make up the Internet. Full detailed discussion of the hardware and software items involved, including modems. General questions concerning Internet connections.
Prerequisites: None.
See also: File management, archiving and compression techniques.

2. Using the Internet with Windows 95/98 \$90

Lynn Pollock
9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 11 Oct.
9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sat 7 Nov.
This is the basic course for Windows 95 users. It suits people about to install Win 95 Internet software or novice users of the Internet who want a full explanation of the basic setup and techniques involved. Hands-on individual installation of 32-bit Internet software. Explanation, discussion and live student Internet connections to demonstrate and practice all the major components.
Prerequisites: Win 95 experience.

3. Advanced Internet Part 1: Effectively using Web browsers \$60

Lynn Pollock
1.00 pm–5.00, pm Sat 24 Oct.
Complete examination and discussion of all the features in the latest versions of both Netscape and MS Internet Explorer. Configuring, bookmark and favourite management, saving images and data, offline viewing of saved information, effective use of search engines and techniques, and tips and tricks. Students have live Internet connections to practice their searching techniques.

Prerequisites: Students should have attended the basic Internet course or have a good understanding of Internet principles. This is an advanced course.

4. Advanced Internet Part 2: Internet Workshop \$90

Lynn Pollock
9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 25 Oct.
Complete discussion and live student Internet connections examining all the features that make up the Internet today, with the exception of Web browsers. Students will gain experience with the following: Advanced e-mail, FTP, Archie, Gopher, Finger, Telnet, IRC Network, Internet Phone, newsgroups and list servers, also connection problems and tips and tricks.

Prerequisites: Students should have attended the basic Internet course or have a good understanding of Internet principles. This is an advanced course.

Web Page Design \$162

Steven Goldate
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 8, 15, 22 Oct.
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 11, 18, 25 Nov.
This course has replaced the Beginners' and Advanced HTML courses. Students will learn how to write web pages for the World Wide Web. This includes HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) basics, use of HTML editors, both text and WYSIWYG. Students will gradually be introduced into the inner workings of HTML, learning how to write simple Web pages, then progress to more complex features such as using tables, frames, embedding sound files, incorporating public domain JAVA applets, how to create online slide shows and more. The course will cover such issues as features of good Web-page design, FTP uploading issues and getting free stuff off the Net. Students will also learn about and will look at directory structures in HTML and file uploading with FTP.

Prerequisites: Preferably, students should be familiar with the Internet, using a Web Browser, have some basic word editing skills and be familiar with Windows.

Operating system and hardware courses

How to buy a computer Free

Tom Coleman
10.30 am–1.30 pm, Sat 3 Oct.
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Tue 10 Nov.
What a computer does, what the jargon means, buying advice, tips and traps, no sales talk!

Prerequisites: None.

Hardware upgrade and repairs \$90

Tom Coleman
10.00 am–5.00 pm, Sat 14 Nov.
Students will be able to dismantle and re-assemble a computer, replace major components. Be aware of the basic "rules" and conventions of computer building. Know enough to get started on simple jobs.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with the basic functions of each of a computer's parts.

Introduction to UNIX \$45

Len Krois
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 1 Oct.
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 13 Nov.
UNIX/LINUX basics for people who want a basic feel for the open systems environment. UNIX is a popular shareware version of UNIX that will run on IBM-compatible PCs. The session includes logging onto a UNIX system, finding your way around, manipulating files, viewing and editing text files, using the on-line text manual.

Prerequisites: Command line computing knowledge preferred.

Upgrade to Windows 95 \$119

Mary Levens
9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 15 Nov.
An understanding of the new features of Win 95, and how they differ from Windows 3.1. Using "Shortcuts". Customising Win 95. A comprehensive exercise manual is included.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with Windows 3.1x, including operation of Program Manager, Control Panel and File Manager.

Starting Windows 95 \$119

Mary Levens
9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 1 Nov.
Introduces the computer novice to the concepts and skills required for effective use of the Win 95 environment. Covers basic Windows jargon and terminology, how to accomplish everyday tasks and how to change the way Windows looks and works. Students will receive a comprehensive exercise manual.

Prerequisites: None.

Advanced Windows 95/98 \$90

Lynn Pollock
9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sat 10 Oct.
9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 8 Nov.
A full and detailed examination of Windows 95 for experienced users. Topics include adding hardware, registry control and editing, backup techniques, communications, networking with Win 95, conflict resolution, enhancing performance, system maintenance, and many tips and tricks.

Prerequisites: Must be familiar with Win 95.

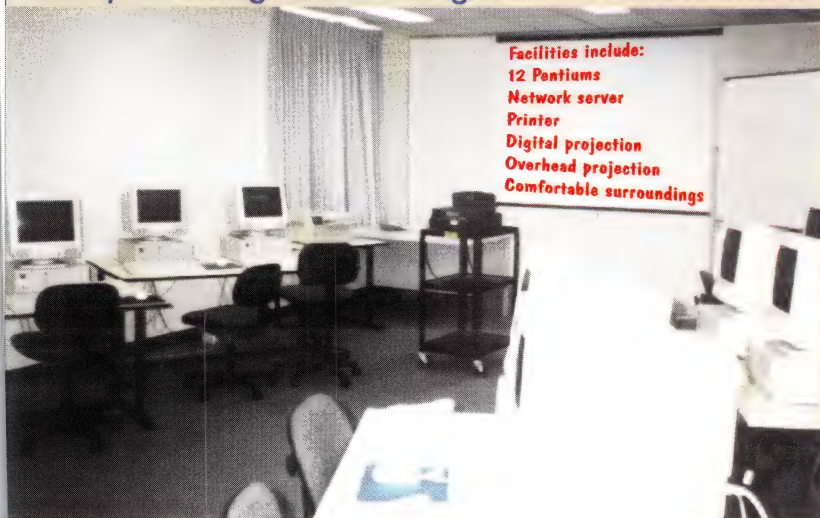
Introduction to networks \$90

Len Krois
9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sat 31 Oct.
This session will show you how to connect two or more computers so that you can share computer resources.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with Windows 3.1 or Windows 95.

Need a Training Venue?

Conduct your classes in the Melbourne PC User Group Training Centre. Regular or casual rental.



Facilities include:
12 Pentiums
Network server
Printer
Digital projection
Overhead projection
Comfortable surroundings



For further
information contact:

Melbourne
PC User Group
Administration Office
27 Dorcas Street
South Melbourne
VIC 3205
Ph: (03) 9699 6222
Fax: (03) 9699 6499

Specialist trainers required

We require specialist Trainers in the following topics for courses commencing later this year:

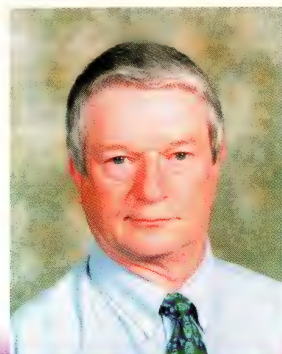
- Windows NT 4.0
- The basics of programming
- Visual Basic programming

If you are interested and suitably experienced, then please contact Lynn Pollock in the first instance by e-mail at lynn@melbpc.org.au outlining your experience in the subject.



RamGate Gold Version 7

Jim
Maunder



Info Box

RamGate Gold
Version 7

Minimum system

- 386 PC
- 4 MB RAM
- 5 MB hard disk space
- Win 3.x / 95 / NT

Availability / cost

Distributed by Hot
Key Pty Ltd
Ph: (02) 9922 5199
Web: [http://www.
RamGate.com.au](http://www.RamGate.com.au)

Street price about
\$85

One of the nice things about Windows is that you can run more than one application at the same time. Even when you only run one application, Windows is running a few of its own—like the one that keeps asking “Where is the mouse pointer?”, and the other that asks “Has the right mouse button been clicked?” and the one that goes “I’m showing you how much of that file has been downloaded”. One of the less nice things about Windows is when more than one application or process is running at the same time, and that is happening all the time, one of the applications forgets what it is doing, and modifies an area of memory that is being used by another application, causing that application to crash. RamGate Gold is designed to prevent crashes by containing each process within its own memory space.

What you get

RamGate Gold comes in a large box containing a CD in a plastic case, a thin spiral-bound user manual, and a registration card. The manual contains instructions about installation and use, explanations of what can cause system crashes, and information about the different ways memory is used and controlled in Windows.

**a simple to use
and effective
program**

Installation

RamGate installs itself—boldly starting the auto-run soon after the CD is inserted in the trusty 2X-spin drive. After this rude awakening it was nice enough to show an informative README file (Figure 1) before installation began in earnest. Most applications offer to display this file at the end, so this was a thoughtful change. There are a couple of choices to be made during installation, mostly to do with the appearance of the RamGate button.

What it does

Rather than providing a blanket protection, RamGate must be configured for each application you want covered. This configuration requires 10 or so simple steps all just requiring a mouse click (Figures 2 and 3). RamGate

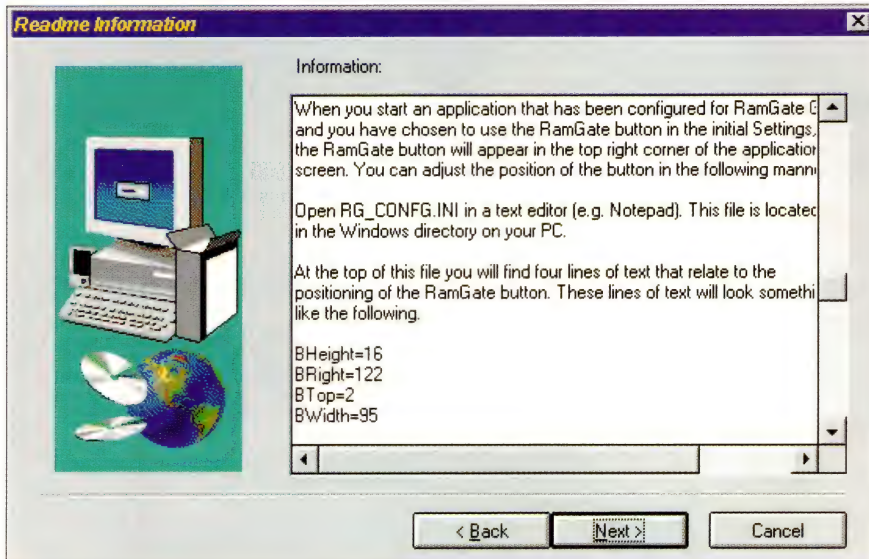


Figure 1. RamGate shows a useful readme before installation

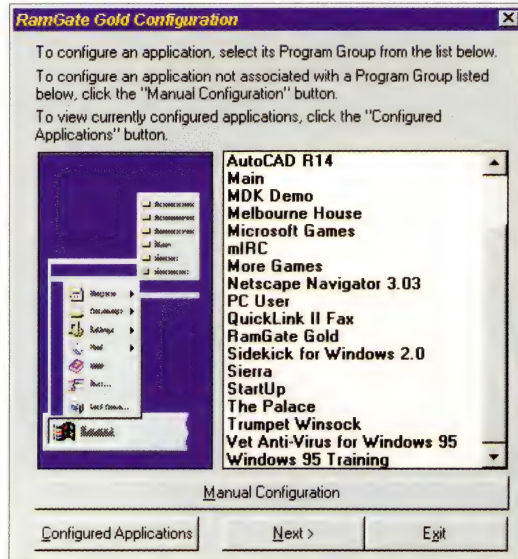
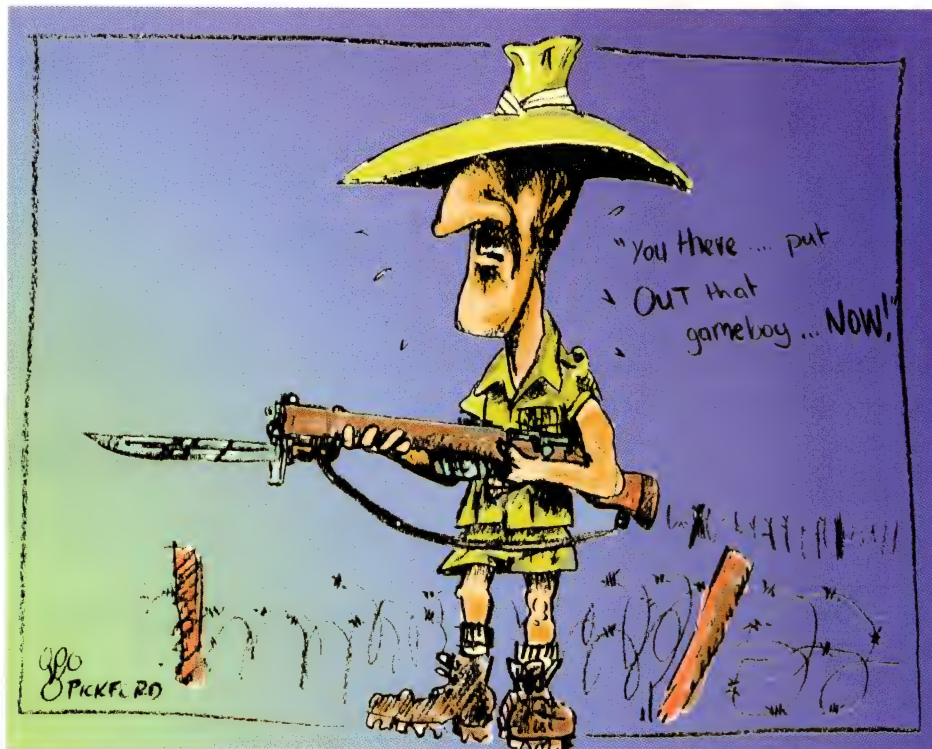


Figure 2. Pick an application to protect...



makes a new icon for the application (Figure 4), and when the application is run from this icon, the "RamGate" button appears, showing you that it is guarding your precious work. As I was occasionally having minor crashes with my Web browser, I configured RamGate for Trumpet Winsock, Pegasus Mail and Netscape. I didn't have crashes and these applications seemed to run better.

In addition to program protection, RamGate provides a large Resource Meter (Figure 6) with dials that show unused memory, user resources, GDI resources and an indication of the amount of free "stable resources" left with and without RamGate protection. The meter also has a button that shows

comprehensive information (Figure 7) about my computer system, as well as a help menu.

Conclusion

As I said above, RamGate seemed to help my system work better. I also tried it on a crash-prone PC at work, and the most I can say is that no one has complained about how it goes now. I do not use that machine much, so I can't say if it has helped or not. I have seen a "blue screen of death" on it, but it could well have been caused by an unprotected application. Overall it seems a simple to use and effective program.

[Reviewed on homebrew 486 DX2/66, 28 MB RAM]



Figure 3. ...a few clicks later and it's protected



Figure 4. A new icon for Winsock with RamGate protection

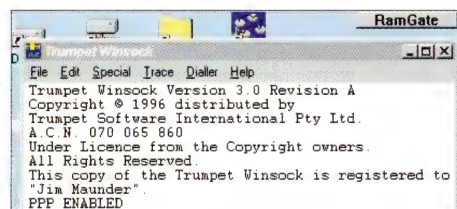


Figure 5. The Ramgate button looking after Trumpet Winsock for me



Figure 6. A glimpse of my desktop ... Resource Meter and three other applications running

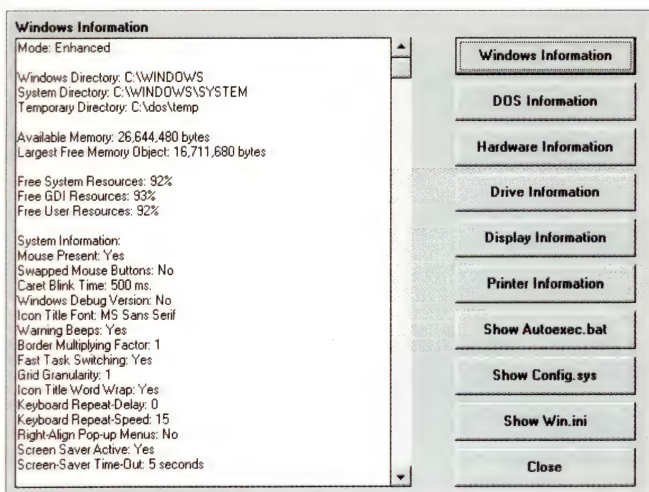


Figure 7. A Resource Meter system information report

Make the Web work for you

Everyone, it seems, is out there waiting to design the best Web site in the world, just for you. If you seek to do it yourself, there are dozens of books in the computer section of most bookshops that promise to show you how to do so.

But what if, instead of a flashy, Java or Active-X Web site with sound, vision and animation, you just want a Web site that works and brings in customers or prospective customers?

Suddenly your choice is more limited

You've probably seen the IBM ad on TV—the one where the Web designer asks the boss if he wants a rotating graphic, or one which bursts into flames. When he's asked for one that links an order to a stock database, he doesn't know how.

The message is that you can pay IBM for the answer.

Well that's one route, but the information is out there, if only you can find it.

That's what we've been doing, and I wanted to share some of our experiences with fellow members, so that they can benefit from our footwork.

Changes in the Web space market

Many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) offer free space for your Web site. If you enquire further, you will most likely find this offer has severe limitations. This has nothing to do with how much you use your account—if you have a business to run, you are unlikely to have the time to over-use your account and the free allocation your ISP will give you.

Their real cost is when your site is popular, being requested by large numbers of users all over the world. This is especially true if you have many files on offer. For example, the Acrobat PDF files we have on our Web site may only be 45 KB each, but what if a thousand people download each of them every month? Or every week?

The ISP pays its provider, e.g. Telstra, for moving all those megabytes around.

If you are serious about operating a business Web site, you should accept that you will need more than what's on offer at free sites. Evaluate the hosting company's reputation before you sign up. There are some amazingly good offers, but if your customers can't connect, or your site is impossibly slow to load, or congestion leads to broken downloads, it is false economy.

```
[17/Jul/1998:06:49:10 -0700] "GET /np-pm65.gif HTTP/1.0"
200 3694 "http://www.worsleypress.com/newsletter.htm"
"Mozilla/4.05 [en] (Win95; I ;Nav)"sub13-133.stetson.edu
/webadmin/home/pub.w/worsley/public_html -
```

```
[17/Jul/1998:06:49:10 -0700] "GET /vine.gif HTTP/1.0"
200 10694 "http://www.worsleypress.com/newsletter.htm"
"Mozilla/4.05 [en] (Win95; I ;Nav)"sub13-133.stetson.edu
webadmin/home/pub.w/worsley/public_html -
```

```
[17/Jul/1998:06:49:10 -0700] "GET /newsltr7.gif HTTP/1.0"
200 18249 "http://www.worsleypress.com/newsletter.htm"
"Mozilla/4.05 [en] (Win95; I ;Nav)" sub13-133.stetson.edu
/webadmin/home/pub.w/worsley/public_html -
```

Figure 1. An example of the raw data you leave behind if you visit a web site. It shows what you clicked on, where you came from, even what browser you were using and what server you came from. Contrary to popular myth, it doesn't show your e-mail address.

where did

we find this

information?...

on the Web,

of course

Evaluating your connection

Your own dialup connection with your ISP may seem first class, but you may be in for a shock if you ask for a report from one of the Web sites which check how easy it is to contact your site. It's also worth while asking business contacts, relatives and friends around the world for their comments.

Another thing you can do to help identify a good Web site hosting service, is take note of sites you visit which seem fast and friendly. Unless the site is run by a major corporation it is likely to be using some form of hosting service. The computer world is still friendly enough that an e-mail message to the Web masters at the sites you like, will likely get you all the information you need about the pros and cons of the hosting service being used.



Look behind the surface

If you have a site that is likely to attract significant custom (I refuse to use the term "hits", and I'll say why in a minute), smaller hosting services may lose interest if you are not planning on using their resident design and maintenance service (and note that they nearly all call them "design" services).

One reason for this is that many smaller providers consist of a computer or two connected directly to the site of a larger provider. In this situation, your provider has to pay its provider by the megabyte. They can afford this, if they are bringing in additional revenue from site maintenance fees, or if high volume sites pay additional per megabyte charges. This is not unreasonable. But it means the do-it-yourself Web creator has to beware of these arrangements and choose a hosting service accordingly.

Other limitations

You will probably want to load and run what are called Common Gateway Interface (CGI) scripts. These scripts are a bit like batch files that were used in the old DOS days. They tell the server what to do. Like those old DOS batch files, CGI scripts are written in something that resembles English. Although you will most likely use well-tested "library" files to control the real processing, you will almost certainly want to be able to change the script that



calls the library. For example you may want to change the subject lines and text of e-mail messages sent from the Web site, or the text of a Web page created by the script that is sent back to the browser to confirm that an enquiry has been sent.

Many service providers set conditions on the use of CGI's—yes you can use them, but only the ones it provides, or it may charge a fee for giving yours the once over before it is allowed to be uploaded, or it must be uploaded by them, on your behalf, to a certain directory, to which you do not have access.

Others take the view that providing CGI access is providing you processor time—these providers may include an allocation (per day,

per week or per month). What you do with it is up to you. If it goes over because of a badly written CGI script, well that's your problem.

The time limit quoted may seem impossibly short—a few seconds a day—but remember this is the CPU time on a fast processor, and you can do a lot of processing in a single second. Our ISP says we can have 1000

```
Total successful requests: 6 977
Average successful requests per day: 225
Total successful requests for pages: 2 013
Average successful requests for pages per day: 65
Total failed requests: 168
Total redirected requests: 3
Number of distinct files requested: 67
Number of distinct hosts served: 1 023
Number of new hosts served in last 7 days: 227
Corrupt logfile lines: 48
Total data transferred: 225 816 kbytes
Average data transferred per day: 7 291 kbytes
```

Figure 2. An example of the minimal report you should expect. Anything less is useless

#reqs:	%bytes:	domain	
1649:	24.25%:	.net	(Network)
1682:	22.87%:	.com	(Commercial, mainly USA)
1265:	16.57%:		[unresolved numerical addresses]
295:	4.79%:	.edu	(USA Educational)
393:	4.44%:	.au	(Australia)
161:	2.67%:	.de	(Germany)
181:	2.57%:	.ca	(Canada)
61:	2.16%:	.nl	(Netherlands)
77:	1.80%:	.fi	(Finland)
44:	1.73%:	.dk	(Denmark)
168:	1.66%:	.uk	(United Kingdom)
52:	1.19%:	.it	(Italy)
63:	0.97%:	.org	(Non-Profit Making Organisations)
24:	0.96%:	.br	(Brazil)
80:	0.91%:	.es	(Spain)
29:	0.77%:	.th	(Thailand)
51:	0.76%:	.pt	(Portugal)
23:	0.76%:	.ke	(Kenya)
45:	0.76%:	.sg	(Singapore)
35:	0.55%:	.at	(Austria)
21:	0.54%:	.yu	(Yugoslavia)
45:	0.51%:	.jp	(Japan)
23:	0.44%:	.ch	(Switzerland)
11:	0.44%:	.il	(Israel)
12:	0.44%:	.ua	(Ukraine)

Figure 3. A typical domain report

CPU-seconds a day (a little over 15 minutes), of which I'm currently using 3 or 4. You can do a lot in a CPU-second. Their estimate is that in 1000 seconds I should be able to run up to 100,000 CGI scripts (for forms retrieval, feedback details, page counters etc.). If we ever get to that, I'll retire on the proceeds of the orders.

Some of these restrictions will not worry you, some may. Know what they are, before you choose your provider.

Access vs help

You may find that providers that allow the greatest access also do the least hand-holding. They'll give you some FAQs (or point you at their URLs on the Web) but it is up to you to Telnet into your own directories and set the

access levels using raw UNIX commands. This is even more like the old DOS days, though some of the top-of-the-range Web site management programs can make it easier, if you can afford them.

Order processing and security

Plan for the future when you're setting up your site. Consider what you will do if you are successful and you start to get a flow of enquiries. We make it clear to anyone who fills in our order form that we are not on a secure server. We are happy to take credit card details over the Internet, but we also give our customers information about the other options available to them. For example faxing their order, sending details split between separate form and e-mail submissions, or

sending it encoded with a program such as PGP (Pretty Good Privacy).

That's fine for now. However, we checked—before setting up this site—to make sure that we would be able to migrate to a secure server, without any apparent change in our Web address, when the need arises. It will cost us more, but I hope the day when it is warranted is not too far off. At least we have planned for it. Changing servers, especially if you do not have your own domain name, can be a pain. You may discover, as we did, that your old Web page is listed on compilation CDs which are popular with schools and educational centres as a way to let people browse offline.

Reports

Another service you will want to take into consideration when choosing your hosting service, is what kind of reports are provided. I used to think it was good when I got a list of "hits" (I said I'd return to that) but then I found out what a hit was. Every little graphic that loads is a hit, so one person glancing at one page and passing on can generate five, ten or more hits, depending on the content and complexity of the page.

Now I get full access logs which can be looked at raw or decoded by one of the various Web statistics programs, either on your provider's computer or your own. I started with a basic report as suggested by the provider, but now, every Sunday I download the week's logs and run a copy of Analog <http://www.statslab.cam.ac.uk>, the least graphic but most informative of the statistics programs.

This offers a huge range of options, such that I now have a command line to run Analog that reads as follows:

```
analog -h +o +f+r1 +t +Sr-250
+c +e -p -u- -q -G
+C"GRAPHICAL OFF"
+nworsleyexpress.com
httpd_access.*
```

I won't go into a long explanation, and it is probably not in a very logical order because it has grown as I've found out what is available and how to specify it. Suffice to say that it is a batch file run from an icon in a folder on my desktop.

The report it produces is an HTML file (what else?). I've included extracts of the kind of information you get as figures to accompany this article. One of the most interesting results from specifying all the referring sites. This identifies the sites visitors were at when

"ONE FOR ONE" DEAL

This is how it works:

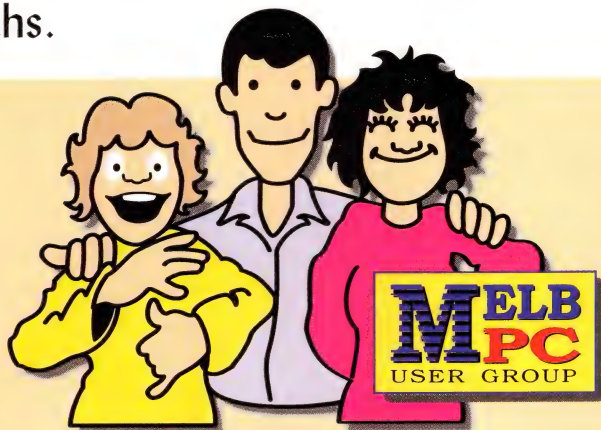
Find a friend.

Get a Melb PC membership form.

Get friend to fill out form, showing your membership number as the referring member.

Send form with payment.

Your membership is extended by one month for every new individual member you introduce, up to a maximum of 12 months.



they clicked on a link to bring them to your site.

Of course many of them are just other pages on your own site. This report also shows you which friendly sites have links to yours. However, to me the most useful information came in the details you will never get unless you specify it yourself from the logs: the sources of the one-time connection. A large proportion of these turn out to be from search engines, and, many search engines put information about the referring search query into their address line. So you can see the search query used, and use this information to check which search terms bring up your site.

For example, a lot of people come to our site after typing queries such as "how to publish a book" or "news-papers + publishing" or "pagemaker hints". That shows our efforts to get suitable listings on search engines are beginning to work. However, I can't

explain how someone got referred to our site by typing in "hypogonadism + irritability + symptoms". Can Excite.com please explain?

About those search engines

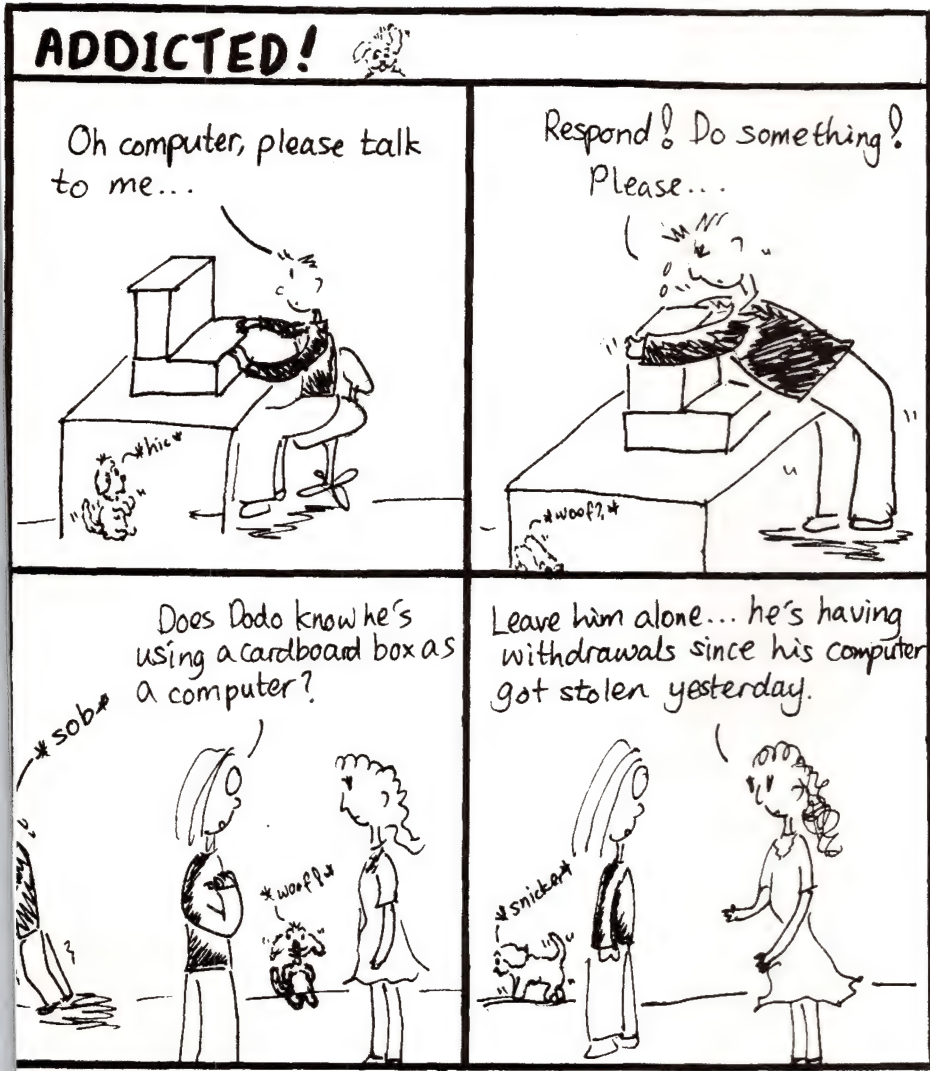
The art of effective listings in search engines is worth an article in itself, but, once you get a Web site you will get plenty of e-mail messages offering to submit your site to 50 or even 250 search engines free of charge, or for a "very reasonable" \$29.95, US dollars of course.

Don't do it. It may take you ages to go to Yahoo and Excite and WebWombat (the very good Australasian-only search engine) and all the other general and specialist engines. But it's worth the effort, because you can tailor your entry to each site after having a look around to see how they work.

You'll also see that there is a great deal of variability in the information the engines require. Some ask only for a

#reqs:	%bytes:	file
705:	2.96%:	/vine.gif
692:	1.00%:	/np-pm65.gif
493:	1.20%:	/newsletter.htm
435:	3.14%:	/newsltr7.gif
336:	5.15%:	/newsltr7.pdf
275:	0.60%:	/
258:	2.50%:	/pwc.jpg
254:	0.25%:	/divider.gif
249:	24.66%:	/np-web.pdf
249:	0.13%:	/dot.gif
248:	0.46%:	/format1.gif
244:	9.83%:	/newsltr6.pdf
234:	22.26%:	/format1.pdf

Figure 4. The start of a request report. Top of the list is the background GIF we use, then a GIF which appears on several pages. Third comes the most viewed page—which, incidentally, isn't our main or index page





**HUGE
COMPUTER
SWAP
MEETS**

Sunday 4th October
MALVERN TOWN HALL
cnr High St & Glenferrie Rd
ROYAL MELB. SHOWGROUNDS
Epsom Rd, Ascot Vale

Sunday 11th October
SPRINGVALE CITY HALL
397 Springvale Road
COLLINGWOOD TOWN HALL
140 Hoddle Street

Sunday 18th October
IVANHOE CENTRE
275 Upper Heidelberg Road
THE CAMBERWELL CENTRE
340 Camberwell Road

Sunday 25th October
BOX HILL TOWN HALL
1022 Whitehorse Road
MOORABBIN TOWN HALL
985 Nepean Hwy, (at South Rd)

Everyone welcome to Buy — Sell — Exchange
9 am to 4.30 pm, Entry \$2.50, Stands from \$6.00
For details phone (03) 9886 1466 (BH)


```

1: http://search.excite.com/search.gw?search=pagemaker+plugins
1: http://www.hotbot.com/default.asp?MT=pagemaker+tips&submit=SEARCH&SM=MC&DV=7&RG=.com
  &DC=100&DE=2&_v=2&OPs=MDRTP
1: http://ww2.altavista.digital.com/cgi-bin/news?msg@17722@alt.aldus.pagemaker
1: http://netfind.aol.com/search.gw?search=how+to+small+press+publish&lk=excite_netfind_us
  &nrm=n&pri=on&xls=b
1: http://www.hotbot.com/?_v=2&OPs=MDRTP&MT=Pagemaker&act.next.x=2&act.next.y=9
1: http://ink.yahoo.com/bin/query?p=adobe+pagemaker+templates&hc=0&hs=0
1: http://search.excite.com/search.gw?s=pagemaker+AND+booklet+AND+additions&trace=L
1: http://search.excite.com/search.gw?c=web&s=hypogonadism+irritably+symptoms&
  showSummary=true&start=40&perPage=10&next=Next+Results
1: http://www.hotbot.com/?MT=PageMaker+Bulgaria&submit=SEARCH&SM=MC&_v=2&OPs=MDRTP&base=40

```

Figure 5. A small part of the referrer report: what people asked the search engine

Web address. These are the ones which will send a robot to look at your site, and it is important to have it ready for visitors, before you submit it.

Words are worth a thousand pictures

Pictures are pretty but search engines use words to make an index. The most important words are the title of your page (those words which appear in the title bar of the browser). It should be the most considered short phrase you have ever written because it has a tremendous impact on how your site will be listed in most search engines.

After the title, the next most important words are an often overlooked series of what are called Meta tags—tags which mean nothing in terms of displaying your page on a browser screen, but which can make a big difference in how other people find your page.

For example the content meta tag is structured as follows:

```
<META NAME="description"
CONTENT=the words which come
here will appear in many
search engines as the
description of your page">
```

The keyword meta tag is:

```
<META NAME="keywords"
CONTENT="sequence, words, people,
likely, search, under">
```

It doesn't hurt to repeat your key words in a comment tag <-- -->. But don't overdo it. The robots are programmed to recognise and reject pages where word patterns indicate padding of key words to improve a page's ranking. Nevertheless, the number of times a searched word appears in a Web page, can effect your page's ranking.

Access

There's no reason to limit your choice of Web hosts to your dial-up ISP. In fact, it doesn't even need to be within local call range, as you can usually

connect to your ISP, then use an FTP or Telnet client to transfer files to your Web site. Your e-mail and other personal services can, for example, still be via your trusty Melb PC connection—you can log in locally to retrieve e-mail from your server in Melbourne or somewhere on the other side of the world.

And where did we find this information to help us develop a Web site that brings a small but steady flow of orders to our business? On the Web itself, of course. It's all there. You just have to look, and keep looking. Use the search engines because in doing that you'll

be teaching yourself how they work.

We have a long way to go yet. Of course, design is also important, and our pages could certainly do with some more work in that direction, but there is a lot more than design to getting yourself a working Web site.

About the author

Gordon Woolf runs a tiny book publishing and newspaper page production and training business that, from its Web site, appears bigger. You can contact him at gordon@worsleypress.com or via <http://www.worsleypress.com>





A bridge too dark

During the month I noticed the following message (which I've slightly abridged—pardon the pun) on the BBS. Being a puzzle fan(atic) I saved it, and one thing led to another...

It was a good exercise for my organic "Necktop" computer, maybe your's could benefit from the experience?

> From: Michael Marquart
> To: All
> Subj: Impossible?

> I couldn't solve this as
> stated, is it possible??

> Allegedly, this is one of
> the questions for potential
> Microsoft employees. You can
> really get caught up trying
> to solve this problem.

> Reportedly, one guy solved
> it by writing a C program.
> Although it took him 37
> minutes to develop, it
> compiled and ran on the first
> try.

> Another guy solved it in
> three minutes. A group of 50
> at Motorola couldn't figure
> it out at all.

The problem

> Four men must cross a bridge
> in 17 minutes. All four begin
> on the same side of the
> bridge. It is night. There is
> only one torch. A maximum of
> two people can cross at one
> time.

Any party who crosses, either 1 or 2, must have the torch with them. The torch must be walked back and forth, it cannot be thrown, etc. Each man walks at a different speed. A pair must walk together at the rate of the slower man's pace. A takes 1 minute to cross.

> B takes 2 minutes to cross.
> C takes 5 minutes to cross.
> D takes 10 minutes to cross.

> For example: If A and D walk
> across first, 10 minutes
> have elapsed when they get
> to the other side of the
> bridge. If D returns with
> the torch, a total of 20
> minutes has passed and they
> have failed.

The solution

The best starting point for any puzzle (or for life in general) is to assume that the desired state is attainable and all you have to do is find out how.

The way to reach the required state (all men on the other side) in the least time, is to waste the least resources. We have 34 "bridge-minutes" available, i.e. a maximum of two on the bridge at any time for the 17 minutes allowed. Ignoring the return trips, the best we can do is send A and B across together, taking two minutes and wasting one bridge-minute, and send C and D across, wasting five bridge minutes and taking ten. That can't be reduced, so, we've used 12 of the available minutes. So, there's five elapsed minutes left to shuffle the torch back and forward. Regardless of who crosses first, someone must return with the torch, leaving at least two more forward trips. It doesn't take long to work out that the overall trips must be:

- Two across, one back (three at start, one at end)
- Two more across, one back (two at start, two at end)
- Two across (four at end).

Now we know that two of our two-across trips are A & B and C & D, taking 12 minutes. The other two-across trip can't take less than two minutes (A & B), so the two one-back trips can't take more than three minutes in total. The best they could be is two backward trips by A, or one each by A and B. For A to come back twice, he must cross three times, and since there

are only three crossings, one of which (C & D) doesn't include A, there can only be one possibility—one backward trip each by A and B.

So the two possible solutions are:

- A & B cross (2 mins)
- A [or B] returns (1 [or 2] min)
- C & D cross (10 mins)
- B [or A] returns (2 [or 1] mins)
- A & B cross (2 mins)

That takes exactly 17 minutes, and we've also proved that it can't be done in less.

It took a lot less time to solve than to write, but led me to pose the following variations, which I leave for you to solve.

Similar rules:

- The bridge can have a maximum of two people on it
- Any party (one or two) that crosses must have a torch
- Pairs sharing a torch walk at the rate of the slower man
- One man can carry up to four torches.

Variation 1

There is one torch at each end of the bridge and both may be used. However when all the men have crossed there must still be one torch at each end of the bridge.

How many minutes for this scenario?

Variation 2

The bridge is twice as long, with a support in the centre that can hold up to four men. There is one torch at the centre, and one at each end. Once all men have crossed, there must be only one torch at each end, and one in the centre.

What elapsed time?

Variation 3

Same as variation 2, but with an unlimited number of torches in the middle. □

Reliable quantum computing demonstrated

Scientists have manipulated the atomic spin of molecules to demonstrate that reliable calculations can be made by a quantum computer.

In the 7 September issue of *Physical Review Letters*, researchers report on the first experimental use of quantum error correction and demonstrate a three-bit quantum computing system.

Working with David Cory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Los Alamos National Laboratory researchers Raymond Laflamme, Wojciech Zurek and Emanuel Knill are using nuclear magnetic resonance, or NMR, to test their theories, including error correction techniques.

"We have demonstrated for the first time that our quantum error correction works as expected. It is also the first time anyone has manipulated three bits in a quantum mechanical way," said Los Alamos physicist Raymond Laflamme. "This is the most interesting proof to date that quantum computing is not just a crazy idea."

Unlike today's "classical" computers that make calculations with a binary system of zeroes and ones from digital switches, first-generation quantum computers are assembled from molecular switches called qubits.

A qubit can represent one, zero or potentially any state in between.

A functional quantum computer will manipulate atoms to perform many calculations at once by taking advantage of quantum mechanics, which allows qubits to represent many states simultaneously.

"Suddenly you have information encoded on single atoms and you can do things that you never thought you would be able to do before. The rules change and you are not working with the classical rules but the quantum mechanical rules now," said Laflamme.

Until recently, the main problem for

quantum computing was believed to be an inability to correct errors. Two years ago, the Los Alamos team developed a scheme that uses repetitive processing to reduce the probability of errors. For the general error type, every encoded qubit is checked for errors, corrected, then multiplied five times. Those five qubits also get checked for errors then corrected and multiplied, and so on. Knowing how many steps a particular calculation takes, the theorists can determine the number of checks needed to ensure the calculation's accuracy.

Now the physicists have adopted NMR techniques, which are widely used to study the structure of molecules and to measure magnetic fields, for experimenting with qubits. NMR allows scientists to manipulate the atomic spins of nuclei by applying an electro-magnetic pulse to molecules diluted in a liquid. Sending a pulse for a specific amount of time generates a known signal. The signal is amplified by the molecules acting in parallel. Because the researchers knew the most common errors in NMR were of a specific type, they could test quantum error correction ideas using only a three-qubit system.

Laflamme admits a functional quantum computer that can exceed the capabilities of current machines is years away.

However, these experiments show the hurdles to be overcome are not mathematical but only mechanical—the considerable difficulty of manipulating individual atoms.

Laflamme suggests quantum computers will be used to perform simulations of quantum physics for students and engineers. Eventually, quantum computers may be capable of factoring large numbers, a process inherently unmanageable by conventional computers and therefore used for encryption of confidential information.

Los Alamos National Laboratory is operated by the University of California for the US Department of Energy. □

A (much too) brief look at the evolution of the Internet

The Internet had its genesis in the 60s, as part of a US Department of Defense project, administered and implemented by the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA), and called ARPAnet.

One of the objectives of the project was to develop protocols for sending and receiving data, in the form of small packages of data, rather than in a continuous stream. Another goal was that data would be passed from computer to computer, until the final destination was reached, and that delivery of the data would be independent of the path it took to reach its destination.

This way, if for whatever reason, one or more packages that make up the complete data was lost, only the lost package would need to be re-sent.

In the early 70s the first electronic message was sent over the ARPAnet, using the Network Control Protocol (NCP). Later in the 70s the improved TCP/IP protocol was introduced, it continues to be used today.

Still in the late 70s, a system for sending and receiving messages called Usenet was developed, this system, the messages and message groups, eventually grew, expanded and evolved into what came to be called news-groups.

In the 80s the networking system expanded yet again, when a network for scientific research was established. The goal, to provide a network for high speed data exchange between universities and research institutes not connected to ARPAnet. This expansion led to the need for a standardised Domain Name System, so that users could connect to remote computers, using unique names assigned to individual computers.

The early 90s saw the birth of what is now known as the World Wide Web (WWW). The WWW was developed with the aim of providing a means for researchers and academics to share text and graphics electronically, to make it easier for researchers to work collaboratively no matter where they might be located.

Today, the Internet encompasses much of what was originally ARPAnet, and then some. Although e-mail is the most common use of the Internet for all users, it is the WWW (one of the youngest kids on the Internet block) that is most identified with the growth in popularity of the Internet with the general public. □

Random access

John
Swale



Answers received

A From: Andy Bevan-Jones. Our help desk gave me the answer to the problem with the spell checker in Wordpro giving the "in use by another package" message. The fault is that the package has probably previously crashed and left the user dictionary with a read-only flag! Change this and all will be well! At least it worked for me on more than one occasion.

Last month Richard Basillie wanted to find the size of a sub-directory including all the files and sub-directories inside it. Several answers have been received for Windows 95.

A From: John Taylor. We have come across this problem a few times especially when needing to zip a few files. Using Alt+Enter whilst the folder; sub-folder, file etc. is highlighted can give the desired information, it is messy and time consuming. However all is not lost as we have come across a program (freeware to home users; shareware to commercial users) called Disk Frontier, which will do exactly as Richard wants. The program is freely available on the net and from BBSS or you can contact the suppliers on pharper@choicecomp.com

A From: Christopher Malady. I find that when I right click on the sub-directory in Explorer and go to Properties it tells me how big the folder is, including all the files and directories inside it, and how many files and folders are inside it.

A From: George Dragicevic. There is a utility called Diskdata that does this admirably. It also gives the actual space used on the drive of each file/directory/sub-directory and gives an efficiency value for each. It is therefore useful in finding all those small files which take up a disproportionate amount of hard disk space.

A From: Ray Pinkerton. Richard did not specify what operating system he is using but in Windows 95 it's really simple. Start the Windows Explorer, click away until you find the folder (I still prefer to call it a directory) that you require, then right click and select Properties. You will then be told the total size of all files in that tree, the number of files and the number of sub-directories. As for other operating systems, I've no idea but I don't recall Windows 3.x being able to do this.

[JS: Note that John Taylor's use of Alt+Enter is a shortcut to using right click and selecting properties.]

Questions and answers

Q I am using Windows 95 on my PC. At the DOS prompt I can access my A: drive but it will not work in Windows 95. If I go into system properties it shows the drive as not working. I have removed and reinstalled the device driver but to no effect.

A 1: Check the registry for mention of HSFLOPPdr and see that the file is in the Windows\System directory. [JS In my PC the registry entries are in the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\Current ControlSet\Services\Class\fdc\0000 and 0001 keys.]

A 2: Use F8 when booting to start in Safe Mode. Look for multiple entries in the system properties and delete the redundant ones.

Q I upgraded to Windows 98 and this ran OK. I then upgraded to a P300 motherboard and upgraded some applications. I saved the CAB and REG files. Now I only have one IDE port. The second one is not there and shows with a yellow exclamation mark.

A Windows 95 and 98 are set up to the precise resources on the motherboard. You need to start in safe mode and go into the device manager. Remove all the system resources and IDE controller. Restart in normal mode (to ensure that the IDE is removed correctly) and let Windows detect the resources using the Plug and Play BIOS. As it often only finds one device, you will need to restart several times to find all the Plug and Play devices. It is common to have to do this seven times or more.

Q I upgraded FirstAid Uninstaller. Uninstaller was installed with anti-virus software. When I re-booted the start up screen almost finished and then froze. I re-booted in safe mode and removed Uninstaller and then reinstalled. Do I need to uninstall the other antivirus software?

A Only ever install one uninstaller and one anti-virus program at a time. Multiple programs will interfere with each other with unpredictable results.

Q I use Word 7 for Windows 95 and I have to spend time correcting the autocorrect entries it makes. How do I

disable autocorrect?

A Go into the Tools/Autocorrect menu and uncheck all the entries. To find out more, use the Office assistant and type in the search field disable autocorrect.

Q How do I disable the changing of lower case to upper case at the start of a sentence in Word?

A Go into the Tools/Autocorrect menu and uncheck the "Capitalise First Letter of Sentences" box.

Q I have a small network at home and one of the PCs died. I had to format the hard disk and reinstall Windows 95. What do I have to do to get the network operating again?

A The network software will be installed as part of the standard setup. The only thing you should have to do is to share the resources on the restored computer. For each hard disk right click on its icon in Explorer and select Sharing (or Properties\Sharing). Set the check boxes for full sharing. If you have trouble go to Start\Settings\Control Panel\System\Device Manager\Network Adapters, select your network card, click properties and check the settings. If you have a special driver you can install it here. For assistance go to Help and search for network troubleshooter.

Unanswered questions

Q I am running Minitab statistical package under Windows NT. When I mouse click I get an expanded cell with a grey background and the system locks up. It goes to maximum expansion and outside of the screen area. I have been told that the virtual desktop needs to be disabled but don't know what this means. I have updated the screen drivers. □

Over to You

Please contact me if you have any comments on the answers given; can provide a reply for the unanswered questions; or if you cannot attend the monthly meeting and would like a question asked and included in this column.

To contact me: write to me care of the office; leave a message on the BBS or telephone me on (03) 9857 5567 AH or e-mail me at jswale@melbpc.org.au

Note: Please contact commercial distributors before asking a question here. In all cases mention version numbers.

Peter's PC Update Puzzles

Five words

The grid contains five common words. Each appears twice. 1 Across is the same as 1 Down, and so on.

The five words are formed by using all the letters in, but none of the words from, the following:

EVAD E PODGE ANGEL, UPEND
LEVIS.

Hints

The cells with the heavy outline will get you started. Letters that appear an odd number of times must fill the cells of the other diagonal in the grid.

	1	2	3	4	5
1					E
2				E	
3			I		
4		E			
5	E				

These puzzles can be solved without using a computer—if one bird-brain can write them, another can solve them!

Four of everything

Each of the digits 1 – 9 occurs four times in the central part of the grid. The clues mention every time that a digit appears more than once in a column or row. No digit appears next to itself, horizontally or vertically. The numbers to the right and bottom of the grid are the sum of the cells to the left or above.

Four of Everything

	a	b	c	d	e	f	
A							24
B							
C							40
D							15
E							36
F							36
	30	29	27	39		32	

Across

- A. A pair of 1s, no 9s.
- B. A pair of 4s.
- C. A pair of 5s.
- D. A pair of 1s, a pair of 2s.
- E. A pair of 6s.
- F. A pair of 8s, no 4s.

Down

- a. One 1, one 9.
- b. One 9.
- c. No 7s.
- d. A pair of 6s, a pair of 9s, no 5s, no 8s.
- e. A pair of 3s, one 2.
- f. A pair of 7s.

Cryptotext

This cryptotext contains a quote from a famous politician. The original text was converted using a simple substitution code, that is each occurrence of a particular letter has been replaced with another letter. No letter is replaced by itself.

Hints

The most common letters in the English language are E T A I O and N. Start with the short words.

Cryptotext

S	L	E	Y	G	H	X	J	A	W	E	W	Z	T	Z	E	Y	X	T	,	J	X	S							
X	J	S	H	W	E	W	Z	E	X	T	L	Z	E	Z	J	B	T	P	E	S	F	T	H	W	Z	S	X		
V	E	B	T	M	F	I	T	F	W	;	S	Z	J	B	T	F	E	W	Z	S	F	V	W	E	E	C	C	T	M
O	Y	W	O	G	E	E	H	,	W	E	S	G	,	W	T	J	M	X	J	F	H	X	L	T	J	W	.		

Peter
Smith



Last month's solution

Grasping Grandchildren

Andrea	Comminweaqlth \$40,000 Silver Plate
Barbara	National \$20,000 Jewellery
Charle	ANZ \$50,000 Art
David	Bendigo \$60,000 Stamps
Evan	Bank of Melbourne \$30,000 Coins

Acknowledgments

Melbourne PC User Group gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the following organisations:

American Power Conversion for the supply of six uninterruptible power supplies for the Group's Communications Centre.

ACA Pacific for the donation of a Diamond Stealth Video card for *PC Update* production.

Computer Rebuilds for the supply of equipment for *PC Update* production and the group's communications centre.

Corel Corporation for copies of CorelDRAW and Corel VENTURA used in the production of *PC Update*.

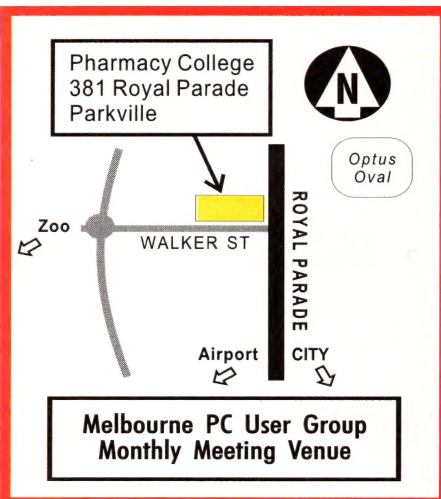
Hewlett-Packard for a LaserJet 4M printer for administration, and a ScanJet scanner and LaserJet 5Si MX used in *PC Update* production.

Michaels Camera & Video for a Kodak DC20 Digital Camera.

Microsoft Australia for many years of contributions and support.

SONY Australia for the supply of equipment for *PC Update* production.

Symantec Australia for many years of contributions and support.



Monthly meeting

All members and guests welcome

**Pharmacy College
381 Royal Parade
Parkville**

**6.00 pm
First Wednesday
each month except
January**

An average of over 500 members and guests attend our monthly meetings, which provide an excellent forum to introduce and release new products to those who are both users and decision makers. Meetings are arranged around planned themes. Members or presenters who are able to assist or contribute are invited to contact the convener.

Stan Johnstone Meetings convener
and administrator
Phone: (03) 9578 3091 BH
e-mail: stanj@melbpc.org.au

Next meeting: 7 October

Presentations by

3-Com and Lotus.

Plus:

- The usual giveaways and raffle
- Random access
- Shareware library sales
- Socialising

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Colombus MX

- 6x86-PR233MX CPU
- 512K cache
- 32M SDRAM
- 2.1G ultra IDE HDD
- 1.44M FDD
- 2M S3 Virge PCI video card
- 15" Hyundai monitor
- 32X CD-ROM drive
- 16-bit Plug n Play sound card
- Pair of speakers
- Microsoft mouse & pad
- 104 keyboard
- choice of desk-top or mini-tower case
- Canon BJC-255SP colour printer
- 33.6K fax/modem
- Windows 95
- Vet anti-virus software

\$1795

Merlin P-II

- Intel Pentium II 333 CPU
- Gigabyte BX chipset
- 32M SDRAM
- 5.1G ultra IDE HDD
- 1.44M FDD
- 8M Intel i740 AGP video card
- 15" Hyundai monitor
- 32X CD-ROM drive
- SB Ensoniq PCI sound card
- Pair of speakers
- Microsoft mouse & pad
- 104 keyboard
- choice of ATX desk-top or mini-tower case
- 56K fax/modem
- Windows 98
- Vet anti-virus software

\$2540

Excalibur P-II

- Intel Pentium II 400 CPU
- Gigabyte BX chipset
- 64M 100MHz SDRAM
- 5.1G ultra IDE HDD
- 1.44M FDD
- 8M Intel i740 AGP video card
- 15" Hyundai monitor
- 32X CD-ROM drive
- SB Ensoniq PCI sound card
- Pair of speakers
- Microsoft mouse & pad
- 104 keyboard
- choice of ATX desk-top or mini-tower case
- 56K fax/modem
- Windows 98
- Vet anti-virus software

\$3195

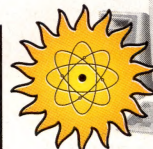
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Picture for illustrative purpose only. Actual units will vary

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Gigabyte ATX2 ATX 512K	\$185
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Upgrade you current system to 6x86-PR233MX with 32M of RAM and 2M S3 Virge video card.*

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- Gigabyte SIS chipset 512K cache motherboard
- 32M 10nS SDRAM
- 2M S3 Virge PCI video card

Price including installation

\$439

CD-ROM drives



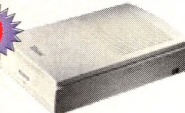
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Are you still struggling with slow 4X or 8X speed drives? Why not upgrade to a fast 32X speed and get the most out of your computer?

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